CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

SCIENCE + ANIMALS + PUZZLES + PEOPLE + APPS + PHOTOS + BOOKS + SPORT + SEA SPIDERS

THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Whip up yummy hot chocolate

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Meet TV star Mo Gilligan

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ENVIRONMENT

Spot the year's first flowers

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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

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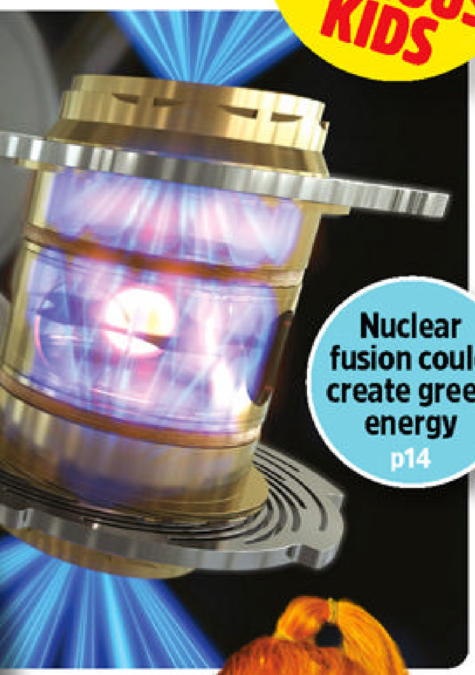

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VISIT…

LANZAROTE
Caliente.com

Travel rules have been eased.

COVID SURGE
China had more Covid cases in December than at any point since the pandemic began.

The beginnings of Covid-19

Covid testing in Wuhan.

Covid-19 is an infectious disease that was first detected at the end of 2019 in Wuhan, China. The disease quickly spread to countries all over the world. To prevent it from spreading further, most countries introduced lockdowns. These limited how often people could leave home and who they could see. Vaccines (a medicine that trains the body to fight a disease using its own defences) against the virus became available from December 2020, which gave people more protection against Covid-19. Countries began easing lockdown rules because the vaccines had made many people much safer.

China relaxes travel rules

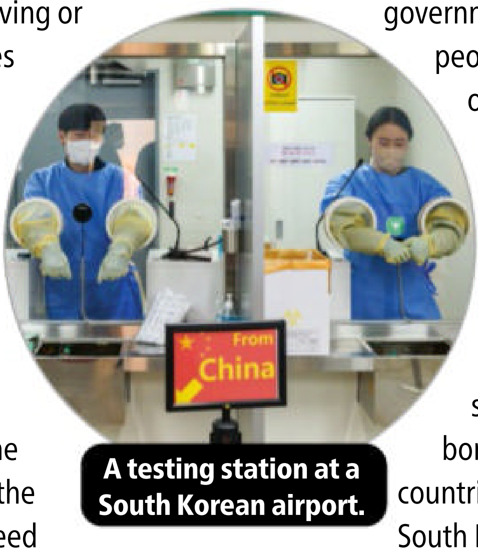
China recently announced that it will relax its border rules on 8 January to allow people to travel in and out of the country. However, many countries have introduced restrictions for people travelling from China to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

What's happening in China?

On 26 December, the Chinese government said it would be reopening the borders to the country for the first time since March 2020. This means that people will be allowed to travel in and out of China. People from other countries who want to visit China will no longer need to quarantine (a period of isolation to make sure someone isn't carrying an illness, such as Covid-19) when they get to China. Before this, visitors had to quarantine for up to three weeks. Chinese people will again be able to apply for passports (official documents that allow people to travel between countries), which had been restricted since August 2021. Since the government announced these changes, travel companies have reported a huge increase in the number of Chinese people booking holidays abroad.

How has China tried to tackle Covid-19?

Since March 2020, China has had very strict rules to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The government had a "zero-Covid" policy, which meant that even if just a few people got Covid-19, whole buildings or even cities would be locked down. There were also very tough restrictions on people leaving or entering the country. Even when rules were relaxed in other countries, China's Covid-19 restrictions remained very strict for nearly three years.



A testing station at a South Korean airport.

Why have the rules changed?

In November 2022, there were big protests in many cities across China against the Covid rules. This led to the Chinese government lifting some of the restrictions. People now no longer need proof of a negative Covid test to use public transport or go to restaurants. This sudden change has caused a sharp increase in the number of Covid-19 infections in China. However, no one knows how many people have the virus because they don't have to be tested as frequently any more, so it is hard to keep track of who is infected.

How have people responded?

To tackle the rise in Covid infections, the Chinese government is trying to vaccinate as many people as possible. A vaccine is a type of medicine that trains the body to fight a disease using its own defences. The government is focusing on vaccinating people over 80 years old, because they are the most vulnerable.

To try to prevent the virus spreading now that China's borders are open again, some countries – including the US, Taiwan, South Korea and Italy – have introduced their own rules for people travelling from China. On 30 December, the UK Government announced that people from China will need to have a negative Covid test before they get on the plane to fly here.

Tributes paid to Pope Benedict XVI

People around the world have paid tribute to former Pope Benedict XVI (16th) who died on 31 December, aged 95. The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church. Benedict led the Catholic Church between 2005 and 2013 before stepping down. His final public speech as Pope drew a crowd of more than 50,000 people. He was the first Pope to retire since 1415 (Popes usually serve for the rest of their life). His body will lie in the Vatican City, a very small country within the city of Rome in Italy, that is the headquarters of the Catholic Church. He spent much of his life, including his final years, in the Vatican City.

Born in Germany in 1927, Benedict, whose birth name was Joseph Ratzinger, studied religion and became in a priest in 1951. He is remembered for his strong faith and desire to defend the Catholic Church. Vincent Nichols, who leads the Catholic Church in England and Wales, praised Benedict, saying that on his visit to the UK in 2010, "We saw his courtesy, his gentleness... and the openness of his welcome to everybody that he met." King Charles said he would remember the former Pope's efforts "to promote peace and goodwill to all people".

Pope Benedict XVI

Fireworks in central London.

PARTY TIME
In Scotland, the last day of the year is called "Hogmanay" and its origins lie in parties held by the Vikings hundreds of years ago.

New Year's Eve celebrated

At midnight on the last day of December, people around the world celebrated the New Year. Firework displays took place in many cities to welcome the new year and say goodbye to 2022.

Different parts of the world have different time zones, so some countries celebrate New Year before others. The first country to mark the new year was the island country of Kiribati, in the Pacific Ocean. This was followed by Australia; Sydney celebrated in style by launching 2,000 fireworks from its famous Opera House and 7,000 from its harbour bridge. In Tokyo, Japan, celebrations included releasing hundreds of balloons. In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, two million people flocked to Copacabana beach to watch the city's fireworks.

Celebrations in Sydney.

In Ukraine, people celebrated despite the continuing invasion of the country by Russia. In the capital, Kyiv, some people held parties. A party organiser said, "We should continue to do our thing, to work, to party, to be strong."

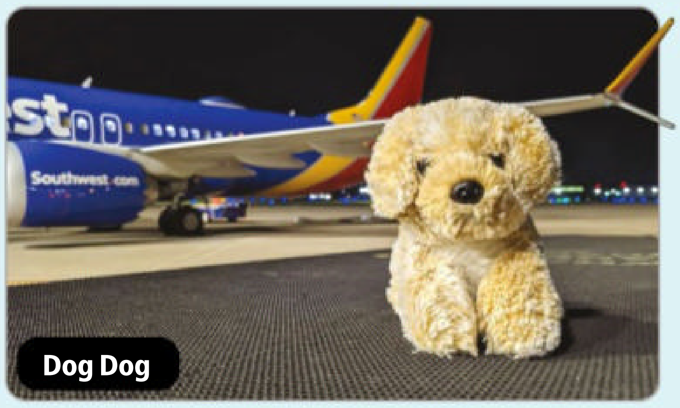
People across the UK celebrated New Year too. At midnight in London, England, the sky over Big Ben filled with fireworks watched by more than 100,000 people. The 12-minute display included a tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. In Edinburgh, Scotland 30,000 people celebrated in the famous Hogmanay (New Year's Eve) street party.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A RESCUED SEA TURTLE

A sea turtle has found a new home at the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth, England. The turtle, named Heidi, was injured after getting tangled in a fishing net in the Indian Ocean. After four years, Heidi has recovered and is said to be settling in well.

Heidi the sea turtle.

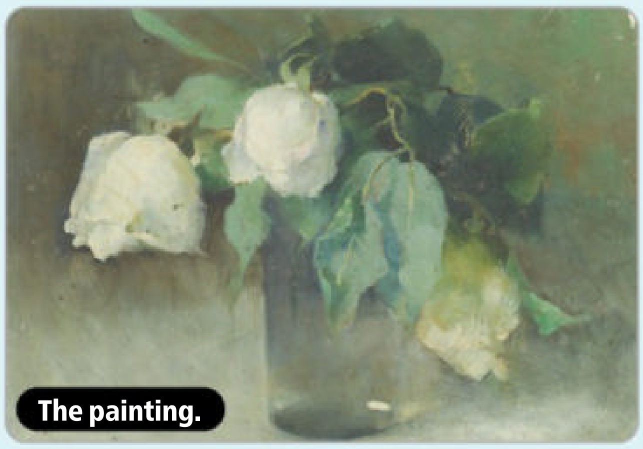

Dog Dog

A TOY DOG'S JOURNEY HOME

A stuffed toy animal called Dog Dog has been returned to its owner, a 10-year-old girl named Luna. Dog Dog was returned by Southwest Airlines, in the US, along with photos of her adventures. The photos included Dog Dog drinking water, reading the plane safety manual and looking out of the window.

DISCOVERING A VALUABLE PAINTING

A piece of art bought for just £40 has been sold for £130,000. The painting, called *White Roses in a Glass*, by Finnish artist Helene Schjerfbeck, was bought by a man in Scotland, who thought it would look nice on his wall. He later discovered it was by a famous artist. Experts think Schjerfbeck painted it in Cornwall, England, in the 1880s.


The painting.

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES · REX SHUTTERSTOCK · LLNI · ALAMY. ON THIS PAGE: ALAMY · GETTY IMAGES · REX SHUTTERSTOCK · BUKOWSKIS · SOUTHWEST AIRLINES · OLIVE RIDLEY PROJECT

Demand for A&E is unusually high.

GOOD JOB More than 1.2 million people work for the NHS, making it the largest employer in Europe.

Who to call if you're sick

A&E is for the most serious needs
Please, ring NHS 111 to check if it's the place that you should be

There are two phone numbers that people can call for medical assistance. For emergencies, such as when someone's life is at risk, the number to call is 999. You should call 999 if someone loses consciousness or is struggling to breathe. For non-urgent situations, you can dial 111. This number will connect you with a nurse who can help you with your problem, or who may tell you to call 999.

The NHS faces challenging winter

Masks help stop illness spreading.

The National Health Service (NHS) is experiencing its "most challenging winter ever", according to the head of NHS England, Amanda Pritchard. Waiting times at hospital accident and emergency (A&E) departments have risen sharply – one in three people now wait more than four hours to be seen by a doctor, and many have to wait much longer.

Why is the NHS in trouble?

Pressure on the NHS has partly been caused by an high number of illnesses that are usually at their worst in the winter. Around 13% of hospital beds are currently being used by people who have Covid-19 or flu. Hospitals are also dealing with extra cases that had to be delayed during the pandemic.

Another problem is that hospitals are unable to discharge (let go) some patients who are well enough to leave. This is because many patients still need looking after when they go home but there are not enough people to help. In the south-west of England, one in five patients are well enough to leave hospital but can't.

How have people responded?

The Government has provided an extra £500 million to support the NHS this winter. A Government spokesperson said this will "speed up hospital discharge and free up beds". Professor Philip Banfield from the British Medical Association, an organisation that represents doctors, said, "We cannot continue like this – it is unsafe and it is undignified." Daisy Cooper, a Member of Parliament for the Liberal Democrat party, called the situation a "national crisis".

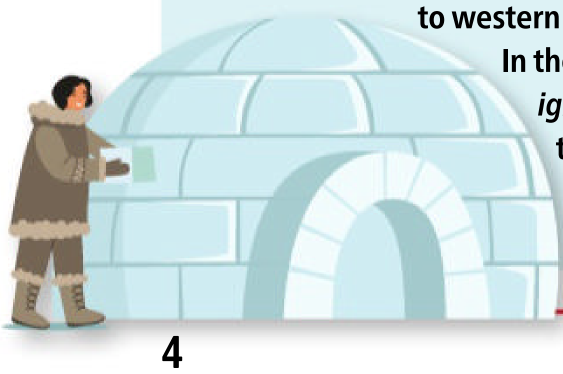
What can you do?

The Government's UK Health Security Agency has asked people who feel ill to stay at home or wear face masks if they have to visit public places, and not to go to A&E unless they are "seriously unwell". Professor Susan Hopkins warns the public not to visit hospitals or vulnerable people unless it's really necessary.

WORD OF THE WEEK

IGLOO

The word "igloo" entered English from the language spoken by the Inuit peoples, who live in chilly regions from the Canadian Arctic to western Greenland. In the Inuit language *iglu* means "house", traditionally one made from blocks of hard snow.

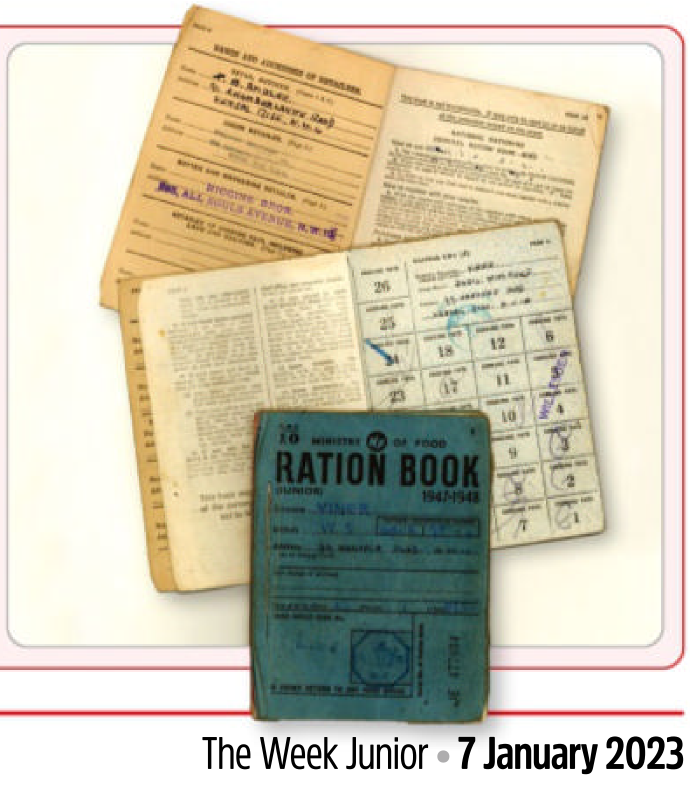


THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

8 January 1940

Food rationing is introduced

When the Second World War began in 1939, Britain was getting lots of its food from other countries. The German navy tried to stop food arriving by sea, so there was a shortage of things like butter, meat and sugar. To make sure that everyone had enough to eat, the UK Government gave every household a ration book containing coupons, which shopkeepers would sign before issuing food. Food rationing continued after the war and finally stopped in 1954.



Westwood in 2005.

Westwood remembered

On 29 December, fashion designer Dame Vivienne Westwood died. Westwood was famous for helping to design clothes that were popular in the 1970s, and many people say that she changed British fashion forever. Westwood was also known for using her fame to campaign for important issues like the environment. Fashion model Bella Hadid called Westwood, "the coolest, most fun, incredible, humble, creative, intelligent, epic human being".

How the school will look.

School is built back greener

A school in Derby, England, that was damaged by a fire is being rebuilt to be the UK's greenest school. St Mary's Catholic Primary School has been redesigned to help students feel more connected with nature. There will be wildflowers and solar panels on the roof, and large windows so students can have views of greenery. The school will be carbon-neutral, meaning it absorbs as much carbon dioxide (a gas that is harmful to the environment) as it creates.

The sheep waiting to be rescued.

Sheep talked into rescue

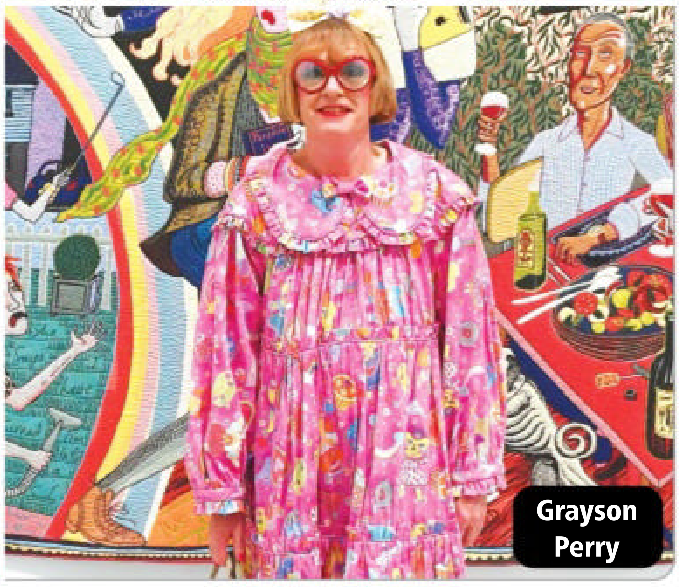
The RSPCA, an animal charity, has shared its most memorable animal rescue missions of 2022, including a sheep who had fallen 20 metres down a mountain in Wales and got stuck in brambles. Charity staff made sheep noises in the hope that the sheep would respond, so they could hear where she was. "To our relief, she replied," said a worker. They spent an hour cutting through the brambles before finding the sheep unhurt, and helped her back to her flock.

KATE PETERS/OBSERVER/EYEVINE · TILBURYDOUGLAS.CO.UK · RSPCA CYMRU · ALAMY · REX SHUTTERSTOCK · GETTY IMAGES

Dara McAnulty

Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah

Leah Williamson


Grayson Perry

New Year Honours list revealed

At the end of 2022, King Charles III revealed his first New Year Honours list. This recognises the achievements of people from the UK and Commonwealth countries (where Charles III is head of state). More than 1,100 people were given Order of the British Empire (OBE) medals for their work in areas such as charity, science and the arts.

Four Lionesses from the England football team that won the 2022 Euros were honoured, including the captain Leah Williamson. Football referee Jawahir Roble, who grew up in Somalia and was the first Muslim woman to referee in the UK, was also recognised. She works for a charity called Football Beyond Borders, which encourages young people from all backgrounds to get involved in football.

Scottish illustrator David Sutherland, who drew famous characters including Dennis the Menace in the *Beano* comic, was honoured for his work. The author of *Horrid Henry,* Francesca Simon, received an award for her services to literature. Artist and writer Grayson Perry, who is famous for his decorated vases and colourful tapestries, was given a knighthood, which means he can be called "Sir".

Lots of people were recognised for helping their local communities. Tricia Ward-Jones received a medal for her 17 years of volunteering for Promise Dreams, a charity that helps families with seriously ill children. Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, who campaigns for people's right to breathe clean air, was also recognised. Her campaign is in memory of her daughter, who died because of air pollution. Adoo-Kissi-Debrah said the award was an "absolute honour" and her daughter "would be over the Moon".

The head of space exploration from the UK Space Agency, Libby Jackson, was honoured with an OBE for her work in space research. Jackson said, "I would always encourage young people to follow their passion." Dara McAnulty from Annalong, Northern Ireland, was the youngest person honoured. The 18-year-old was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for his work improving the environment and helping autistic people.

A CBE medal, one of the honours.

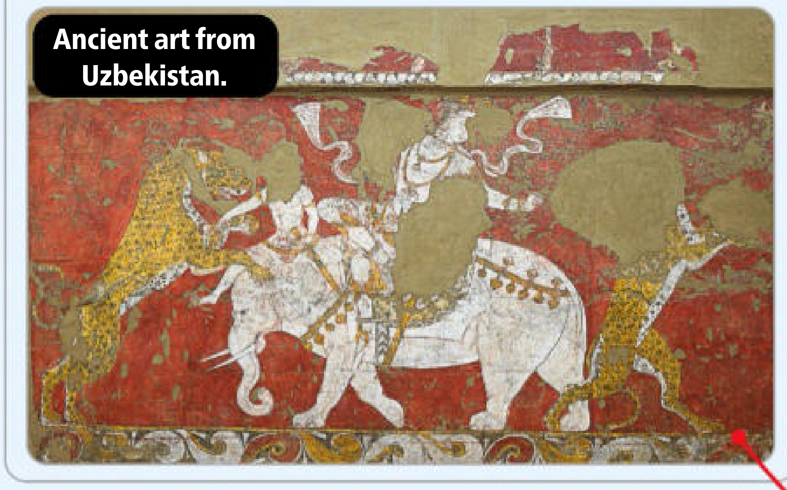
THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Asparagus fortune teller's 2023 predictions – shock royal birth and World Cup glory" ***The Mirror***

Around the world

Paris, France
Exhibition shows ancient treasures

A new exhibition at the Louvre museum in Paris shows treasures from the Silk Road, a network of routes linking Europe to Asia. From about 130BC until AD1453, the Silk Road was used by traders to transport goods. The show displays pages from one of the oldest copies of the *Qur'an* (the holy book of Islam), dating from the 8th century.


Ancient art from Uzbekistan.

Micheál Martin (left) and Leo Varadkar (right).

Dublin, Ireland
Leaders swap jobs

Ireland's prime minister and deputy prime minister have swapped jobs. Leo Varadkar, who was deputy, is now prime minister and Micheál Martin, who was the prime minister, is now the deputy. This is part of a deal between Martin and Varadkar's political parties to share power in Ireland. The two parties, called Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil, agreed it in 2020. The parties had been rivals for almost 100 years.

Santos, Brazil
Funeral for football legend Pelé

On 3 January, thousands of people gathered in the city of Santos to pay their respects to former football star Pelé. Pelé, who died aged 82 on 29 December, is regarded as of the greatest footballers of all time. He won three World Cups – in 1958, 1962 and 1970 – with Brazil. A fire truck carried Pelé's coffin through Santos before a family funeral.

Pelé in his playing days.

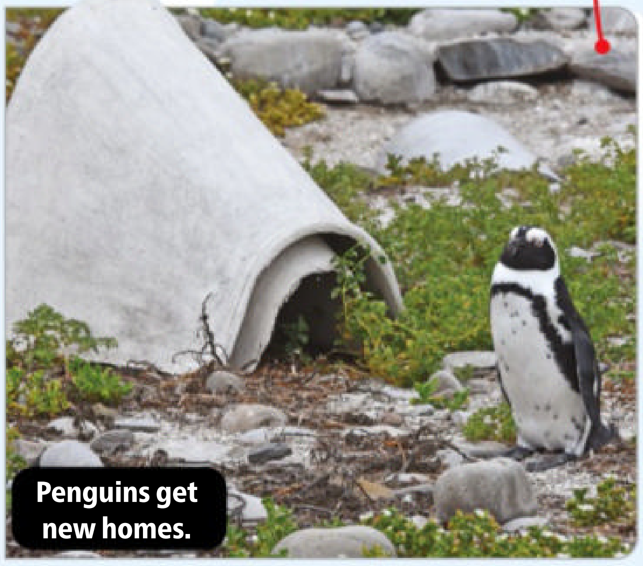
Accra, Ghana
Photography library opens

Africa's biggest photography library has opened in Accra. It was started by Ghanaian photographer and film-maker Paul Ninson, who began collecting photography books when studying in the US. He returned to Ghana to found the library. "As my collection grew, it dawned on me that I could create a library dedicated to photography," he said.

The new library displays photos.

South Africa
Igloos protect penguins

Researchers from the African Penguin Nest Project have built ceramic (pottery) nests to protect five colonies of endangered African penguins and their eggs. The nests look like tiny igloos and help the penguins stay cool during hot summers. A hundred years ago there were 1.5 million African penguins, but now there are only about 20,000 breeding pairs, partly because they lack safe and cool shelter.


Penguins get new homes.

ART AND CULTURE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION/REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN/ ANDREY ARAKELYAN · ALAMY · PULSE9 · GETTY IMAGES · ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES · SAVINGPENGUINS.ORG

Around the world

Regensburg, Germany
1,000-year-old choir welcomes girls

For the first time since it was founded more than 1,000 years ago, a famous choir at Regensburg Cathedral school has allowed girls to perform. The Regensburger Domspatzen is one of the world's oldest boys' choirs. In September, girls joined the school for the first time and 33 of them are now singing in a girls' choir that performs in the cathedral every Sunday.

Girls sing at the famous school.

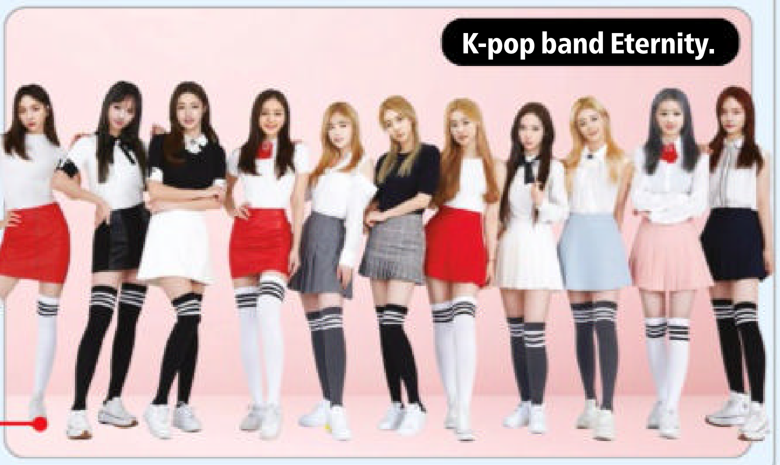
Afghan women can't go to university.

Afghanistan
Women banned from universities

Women in Afghanistan have been banned from going to university by the Taliban, a military group with extreme religious views who run the country. The Taliban have already banned girls from going to secondary school. They say the ban is temporary but haven't said when it might be lifted. Some women have protested but they were quickly stopped by those in charge.

South Korea
Virtual girl bands gain popularity

Despite their first single being called *I'm Real*, all 11 members of the K-pop (Korean pop) band Eternity are computer-generated characters. They have been created by a technology company called Pulse9. Some people say creating realistic virtual people is dangerous because the technology could be used to imitate real people.


K-pop band Eternity.

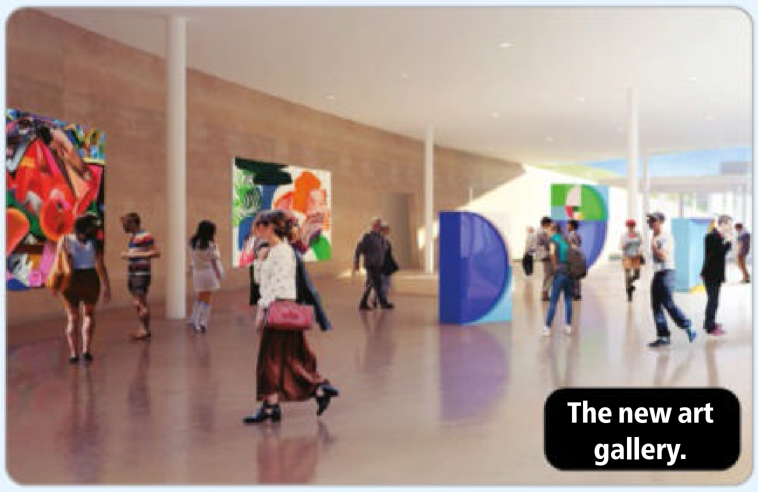
Tokyo, Japan
All new homes to have solar panels

From 2025 onwards, all new homes built in Tokyo will have to have solar panels, the city's government has said. Solar panels absorb sunlight and use it to create electricity. They are good for the environment because they do not release any harmful gases that can cause climate change. Tokyo is Japan's capital and one of the biggest cities in the world.

New homes in Tokyo must have solar panels.

Sydney, Australia
Gallery expansion completed

A new art gallery called the Sydney Modern has opened in the Australian state of New South Wales. The building is expected to attract two million visitors each year. The project took 10 years and cost £190 million. Ben Franklin, the politician in charge of the arts in New South Wales, celebrated by comparing it to London's Tate Modern.


The new art gallery.

Should screen time be limited?

Some people think we spend too much time looking at screens.

What you need to know

- **People living in a village in India have agreed to turn off their televisions and phones for one and a half hours every evening. This is so they can have screen-free time, which is sometimes called a "digital detox".**
- **A "digital detox" is when a person stops using electronic devices, such as computers, games consoles, phones, tablets and TVs for a set time. Some people say that taking a break from electronic devices is good for you.**
- **There is a lot of research that shows that too much screen time can have a negative effect on people's physical and mental health.**

You can learn and have fun with a screen.

TIME WELL SPENT? People aged from seven to 16 in the UK spend nearly four hours a day online, according to a 2021 report.

A siren sounds at 7pm every evening in Mohityache Vadgaon village, in India, announcing that it is time for everyone to turn off screen devices, like televisions and mobile phones. At 8.30pm, a second siren sounds, informing the 3,000 residents that screen-free time is over. The leaders of the village introduced it so that young people could focus on their homework and not be distracted by funny videos or phone messages, and families and friends could talk face-to-face more. However, some say that a screen simply gives access to information – it is not harmful in itself. Instead of having a strict rule, a person can decide for themselves when to put down a device in favour of doing something else. What do you think? Should you set limits on screen time?

Yes – screen time should be limited

Phones, computers, games consoles and TV are great resources for getting information and lots of fun for entertainment. However, they can be addictive and some people need help to break from them. Even if people are chatting on their phone or playing online games together, they can still feel lonely. Screen-free time means people can connect with family and friends in the real world. It's also a great chance for people to go outside and be active, which is good for their health. Too much screen time can lead to other problems, such as not sleeping properly and a lack of creativity. It is good to set limits and learn to live without their devices as this will help people become more disciplined in other areas of their lives too.

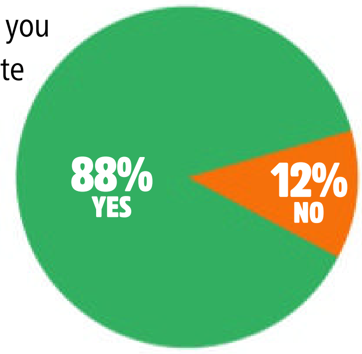
No – people can manage their screen time

Do birds dream? Does spaghetti grow on trees? What was the biggest dinosaur ever discovered? Through devices like phones and computers people can find answers to these questions and many more. They can access great works of art, literature and music, and find out what is happening around the world. It is a great resource for homework as well as curious minds. This shows screen time is important, so it should not be limited. Electronic devices allow friends and family far away from each other to stay in touch. Limiting it might make people lonely. Most people naturally take screen breaks, for example when they eat or exercise. People should be free to judge for themselves how much screen time they should have.

THE WEEK Junior — Scan the QR code to vote in the debate

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last year, we asked if you thought staying up late to celebrate the New Year was a good idea. Most of you felt it was fine to enjoy a late night for such a special occasion.



YES Three points why screen time should be limited

1. **Screen-free time allows people to connect to the outside world and with family and friends. Seeing people face-to-face helps to cure loneliness.**
2. **People can be more active if they are not on their phones or watching TV all the time, which is beneficial to health. Too much screen time can also make it harder to get to sleep.**
3. **It is good to set limits and give up screens because it teaches discipline.**

NO Three reasons why screen time should not be limited

1. **Screen time can be productive – you can read great works of literature, discover fascinating facts or read about important things happening in the world. It can also help your school work.**
2. **It allows people who are far from each other to connect and to stay in touch.**
3. **People naturally take breaks anyway, so there is no need for enforced limits. People should decide for themselves how much screen time they have.**

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Now that you've read a bit more about it, tell us what you think by voting in our poll at theweekjunior.co.uk/polls. Vote YES if you think screen time should be limited, or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

REX SHUTTERSTOCK

The aim of the Big debate page is to present two sides of an issue fairly and objectively, in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on the page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties. The page is created in association with the English-Speaking Union, an educational charity helping young people discover their voice and realise their full potential. For more information, please see esu.org

Mo Gilligan's steps to success

From free school meals to Saturday night TV star.

At the start of a new year, Mo Gilligan does the same thing. "I buy a notepad and put down the 10 things I want to happen. Then I put the notepad in my drawer and go back at the end of the year."

His new year's habit seems to work. Gilligan is a popular comedian, TV presenter, judge on *The Masked Singer* and is now hosting a new BBC music show called *That's My Jam*.

Life wasn't always easy for Gilligan and his family, however. His parents split up when he was five years old and his mother didn't have very much money. The family relied on free school meals.

Just a few years ago, Gilligan was folding jeans in Levi's, a shop in Covent Garden in London. While selling jeans, he would talk to the customers and other members of staff and found out that he could make people laugh. He started to record funny sketches on his phone and put them on social media. His videos were shared online but his big break came when the famous Canadian rapper Drake commented on one of his sketches. That changed everything.

Gilligan wants to use his story to inspire young people who, like him, didn't have an easy start in life. In the meantime, he is loving every moment. "I'm winning. I'm enjoying it. It's fun. And I have to enjoy it – because tomorrow isn't promised."

Mo Gilligan in *The Masked Singer*.

Mo Gilligan

PUP PRIZE
Mo named his cockapoo Baffy after he won a BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) award.

Jaylen Smith has been elected mayor.

A young mayor's dream

Jaylen Smith is already a winner. Aged 18, he has been elected the youngest black mayor (a town's leader) in the US. He has an even bigger dream: to become president. In December, Smith was voted mayor of the town of Earle, Arkansas, despite people telling him he was too young for the job. Smith hopes to inspire young people to get involved in politics. "It would be good for more young people to step up to the plate and say, 'I want to be the change. I want to be the leader people want to see in my community,'" says Smith. His advice is simple – "Go for it!"

Rapper gran is a cat fan

Jill Clark is a grandmother of two with a brand new hobby. At the age of 74 she started to rap. Inspired by hip-hop artists such as Drake, Eminem and Jay-Z, she started to write raps about… cats. Jill posted online videos of herself rapping and has raised more than £500 for the National Cat Centre through her songs. Clark, who has always enjoyed creative writing and rhymes, says that her raps take a lot of practice to get right. "Rappers are so quick," she says, "They are incredible."

CHOOSE LIFE
Jill Clark, rapper gran.

THEY SAID IT!

POLICE PUBLIC CALL BOX

"I'd love to take it to ancient Egypt to the pyramids!"

Millie Gibson, who will play Ruby Sunday in the new *Doctor Who* says where she'd most like to travel in the Tardis.

GETTY IMAGES · ITV · BBC · SWNS · JAYLEN SMITH

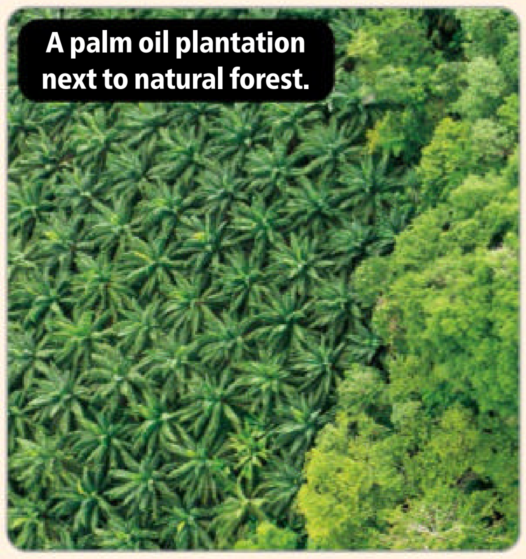
LOSING TREES

Around 10,000 years ago, 57% of the Earth's land was covered with forests. Now, only two thirds of that is left.

Logged forest in Sarawak, Borneo.

Logging and palm oil

Many tropical forests are cut down in order to plant oil palm trees. Palm oil is used in 50% of packaged supermarket products, including chocolate and soap. It's added for lots of reasons, such as making products last longer and giving food a crispy texture. An organisation called the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil is trying to make palm oil production less damaging but environmental groups say that not enough is being done to protect forests.



A palm oil plantation next to natural forest.

Life is still thriving in logged forests

A recent study suggests that logging (cutting down trees to use the wood) does not necessarily mean that things can't live in the left-over forest any more. In fact, chopping down trees sometimes attracts more plants and wildlife than in forests where the trees have been left untouched.

Experts believe that about 70% of the world's forests have had at least some logging. Until recently it wasn't clear exactly what impact this had on other wildlife in forests. However, new research carried out on the island of Borneo, in Southeast Asia, shows that logging can encourage healthy animal and plant life.

Scientists from Oxford University used tens of thousands of camera traps (cameras connected to sensors that only photograph when movement is detected) to find out how many animals were in forests that had been logged and how many were in forests where the trees just died naturally. The scientists worked out that the total weight of birds in logged forests was more than double, and for mammals it was more than three times as much. They also found that animals in logged forests get two and a half times as much energy from food than in untouched forests.

The scientists think there is more food available in logged forests because more light reaches the forest floor when some of the canopy (dense tree tops) has been cleared away. This extra light helps smaller plants grow bigger, giving more food to wildlife like insects, deer and wild pigs. Yadvinder Malhi, who led the study, said, "The whole forest gets more edible and more tasty."

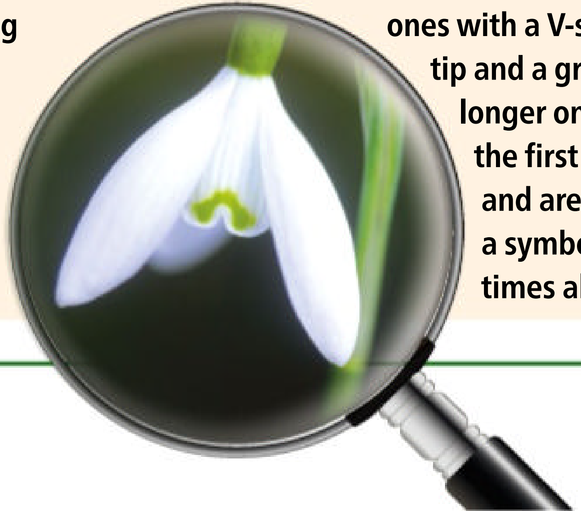
The study makes it clear that although more animals and plants might be able to live there, logging even part of a forest is still bad. That's because untouched forests, with more and bigger trees, absorb lots of carbon dioxide, a gas that causes climate change. However, the study is important because conservationists (people who protect nature) didn't think logged forests were important to protect. The new research shows that even damaged forests can have lots of wildlife that needs protecting.

A Bornean bearded pig.

NATURE SPY

Snowdrops nod towards spring

Snowdrops can start to sprout across the UK in January. They love damp soil under broadleaved trees (those with leaves rather than needles), along riverbanks and in gardens and parks. Snowdrops can be up to 25 centimetres high and grow from a bulb (an underground bud). The bell-shaped flowers droop from the end of an upright stem, surrounded by two to three long, narrow leaves. The flowers are made up of six segments called tepals – three smaller inner ones with a V-shaped notch in the tip and a green outline, and three longer ones. They are usually the first of the spring flowers and are traditionally seen as a symbol of hope for better times ahead.



A woodland carpeted with snowdrops.

FIERCE REPUTATION
"Jaguar" comes from the old South American word *yaguara*, meaning "he who kills with one leap".

These two male jaguars are brothers.

Male jaguars become friends

Scientists have observed adult male jaguars, who usually like to be alone, forming friendships that can last for years.

Male jaguars don't usually interact with other jaguars unless they are mating (making babies) or fighting to defend their territory. However, a recent study found evidence of them spending time with each other – patrolling territories, resting and eating together.

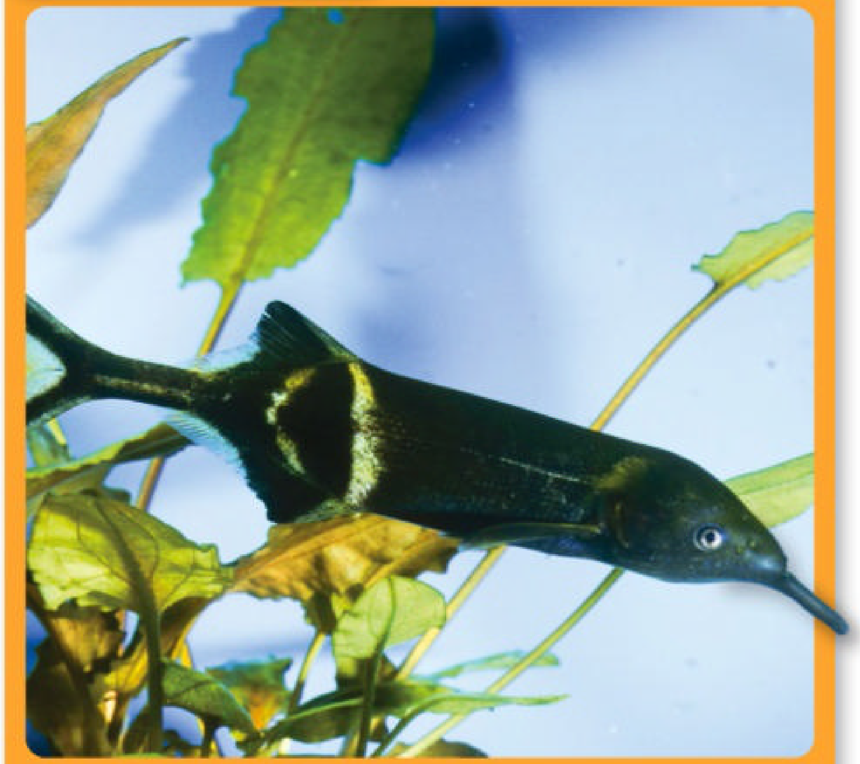
Scientists gathered information about jaguars across South America using tracking devices, camera traps (cameras connected to sensors that only take a picture when they sense movement) and by watching closely. The scientists found two jaguar friendships. One pair in the Pantanal (a wetland region in Brazil) stayed together from 2006 to 2014, and were seen eating and resting together. Another pair in Venezuela spent time together from 2013 to 2018, but no one knows if they are still together. Other pairs were spotted too, but only once each.

The scientists think these friendships could be a response to jaguar habitats being destroyed by humans, which forces more of the animals into smaller areas. The theory is that at mating time, some male jaguars prefer to team up and share the females, rather than risk losing them to another male.

Male jaguars fight to defend territories.

Animal of the week

The elephant-nose fish



This funny-looking fish can produce a small electrical field around itself, which it uses to detect when prey and underwater obstacles are nearby. However, researchers recently discovered that it also does a strange kind of dance to identify objects. The movements allow the fish to build up an "electric image" that helps it to see.

- **LIFESPAN:** Six to 10 years.
- **HABITAT:** Slow-flowing rivers in west and central Africa.
- **SIZE:** Around 23 centimetres long.
- **DIET:** Bloodworms and mosquito larvae.
- **FUN FACT:** Despite its name, this fish's famous feature is actually a barbel (growth) on its chin, not its nose.

Good week

The Solent

A £5 million project has been launched to restore nature in the Solent, the stretch of water between Great Britain and the Isle of Wight, which is a busy route for ships. The project will help to restore seagrass meadows, oyster reefs, saltmarshes and seabird nesting sites.

Bad week

European puffins

UK researchers say that most puffin nesting sites in Western Europe will be lost by the end of the century because of climate change. However, conservationists have a plan for how to better protect the birds, such as tempting them to nest in safer places by putting model puffins there.

ASK A ZOOKEEPER

ALEXANDER SIMPSON, ZSL WHIPSNADE ZOO

How do animals find their babies in herds?

Herd animals like zebra and antelope face a challenge: a lot of their young look exactly the same. Birds use sounds to identify their young but in the hustle and bustle of a herd, neither sight nor sound is always effective. They don't have the luxury of a pouch like a kangaroo and they can't hitch a ride like a monkey. Instead, these species tend to use smell as their main sense to identify their youngsters.

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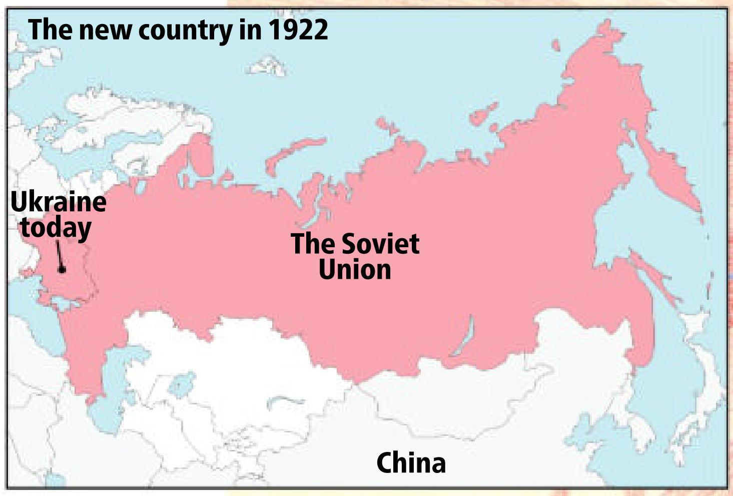
ALAMY · GETTY IMAGES · REX SHUTTERSTOCK

The country born out of

Find out how Russia became the Soviet Union for almost 70 years.

On 30 December 1922, after war and revolution in Russia, the Soviet Union was formed. It was a huge country covering modern Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine. Officially named the United Socialist Soviet Republic (USSR), it lasted until 1991.


The new country in 1922
Ukraine today
The Soviet Union
China

Life in Russia

Before 1917, Russia was ruled by a tsar (emperor) who had complete control over the people. Life was hard for ordinary Russians. Many did not have enough to eat. Around 80% of the population lived in the countryside but few of them owned their land. Even though they did not have enough to eat, people had to give up a lot of what they produced so it could be sold overseas. City life was no easier. People had to work long hours in factories where they had few rights. The First World War (1914–1918), in which many Russians were forced to fight, made things even worse.

The Russian Revolution

On 8 March 1917, which is International Women's Day, people had had enough. A protest by women was quickly joined by men and together they called for Tsar Nicholas II to step down. The army was sent to crush the protests, but the soldiers soon joined the protesters. On 15 March, Nicholas II was forced to quit and a temporary government took over.

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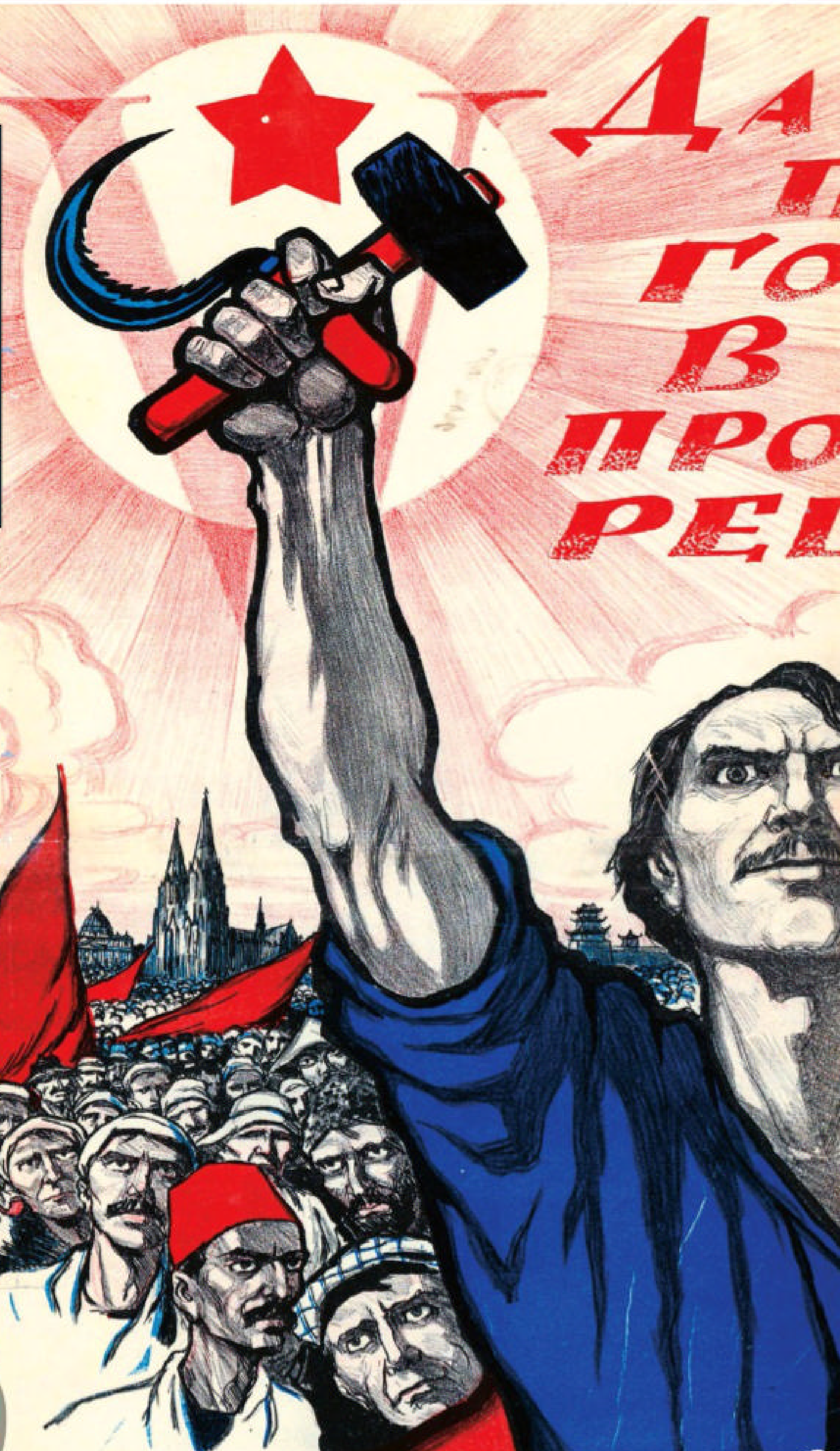
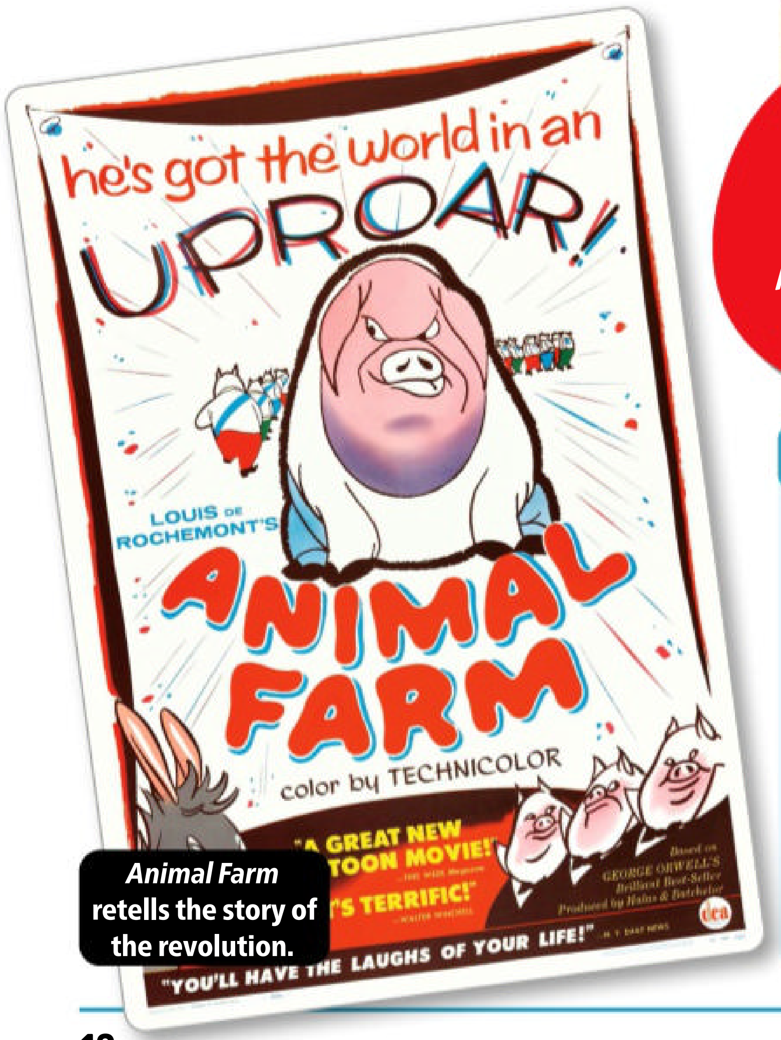


NOVEL APPROACH
George Orwell's story *Animal Farm* is a retelling of the Russian revolution but with animals.


he's got the world in an
UPROAR!
LOUIS DE ROCHEMONT'S
ANIMAL FARM
color by TECHNICOLOR
A GREAT NEW CARTOON MOVIE!
IT'S TERRIFIC!
Based on GEORGE ORWELL'S Brilliant Best-Seller
Produced by Halas & Batchelor
"YOU'LL HAVE THE LAUGHS OF YOUR LIFE!"

Animal Farm retells the story of the revolution.

The people who helped form the Soviet Union

Vladimir Lenin

The leader of the Bolsheviks and the first leader of the Soviet Union. Today, he is remembered as one of the country's most important leaders. People can still visit his tomb in Moscow, the capital of Russia.

Vladimir Lenin

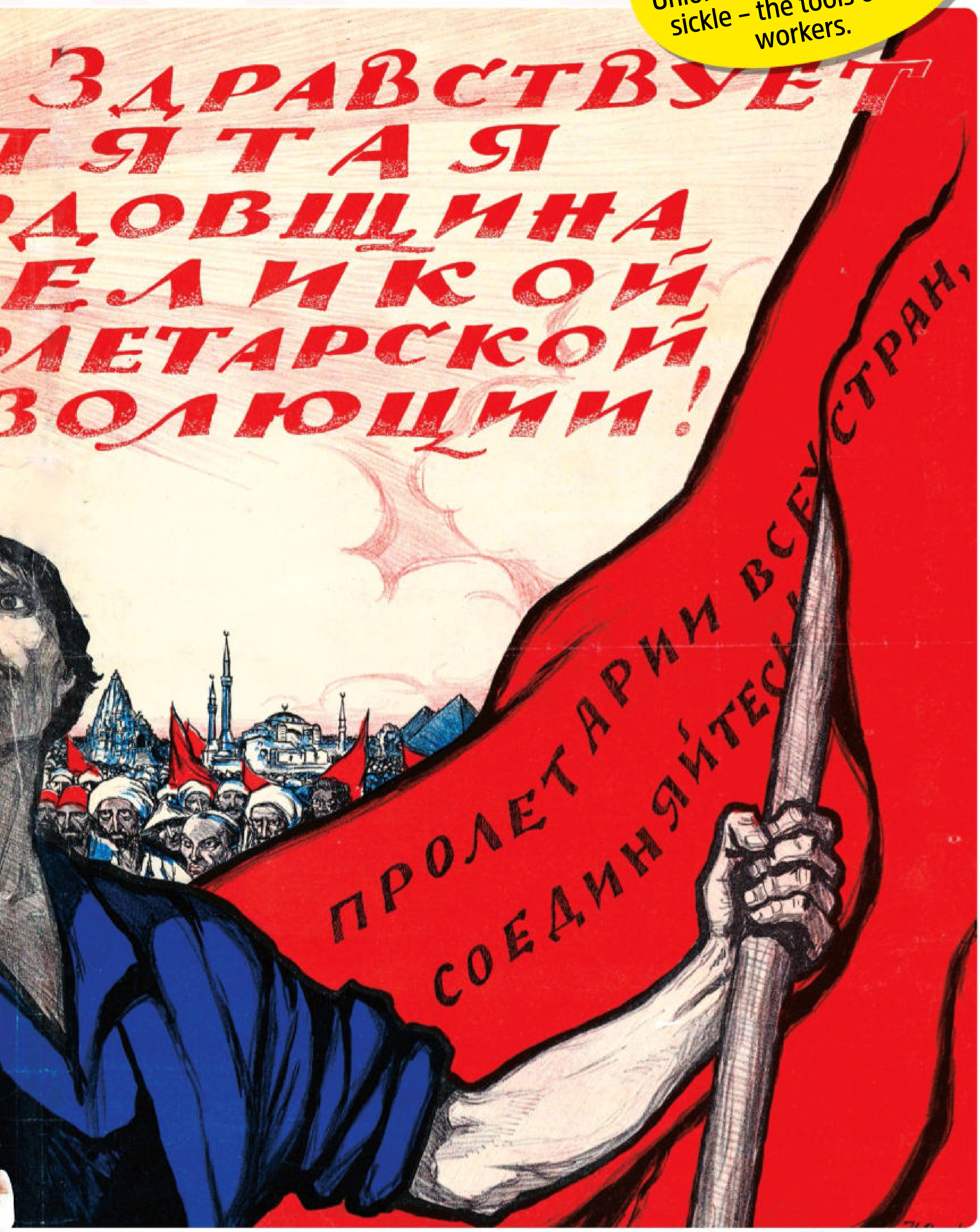
Aleksandr Kerensky

Kerensky was the last leader of the temporary government, which led Russia after Nicholas II stepped down and before the Bolsheviks took over. After the Bolsheviks seized power he fled Russia and went into hiding, fearing for his life.

revolution

A NEW FLAG

The symbol of the Soviet Union was a hammer and sickle – the tools of the workers.



Aleksandr Kerensky

Leon Trotsky

An important Bolshevik. Many people thought he would become leader of the Soviet Union after Lenin died. However, he was banished and later killed in 1940 on the orders of Joseph Stalin, who had taken charge.

Leon Trotsky

Tsar Nicholas II with his family.

A new group takes power

On 6 and 7 November 1917, a political group called the Bolsheviks took over the government. They used propaganda (media with a particular message) to persuade people that everyone would be treated fairly under their new system. In fact, ordinary people still had no say in the government – and no one had voted for the Bolsheviks to lead them.

The Soviet Union is born

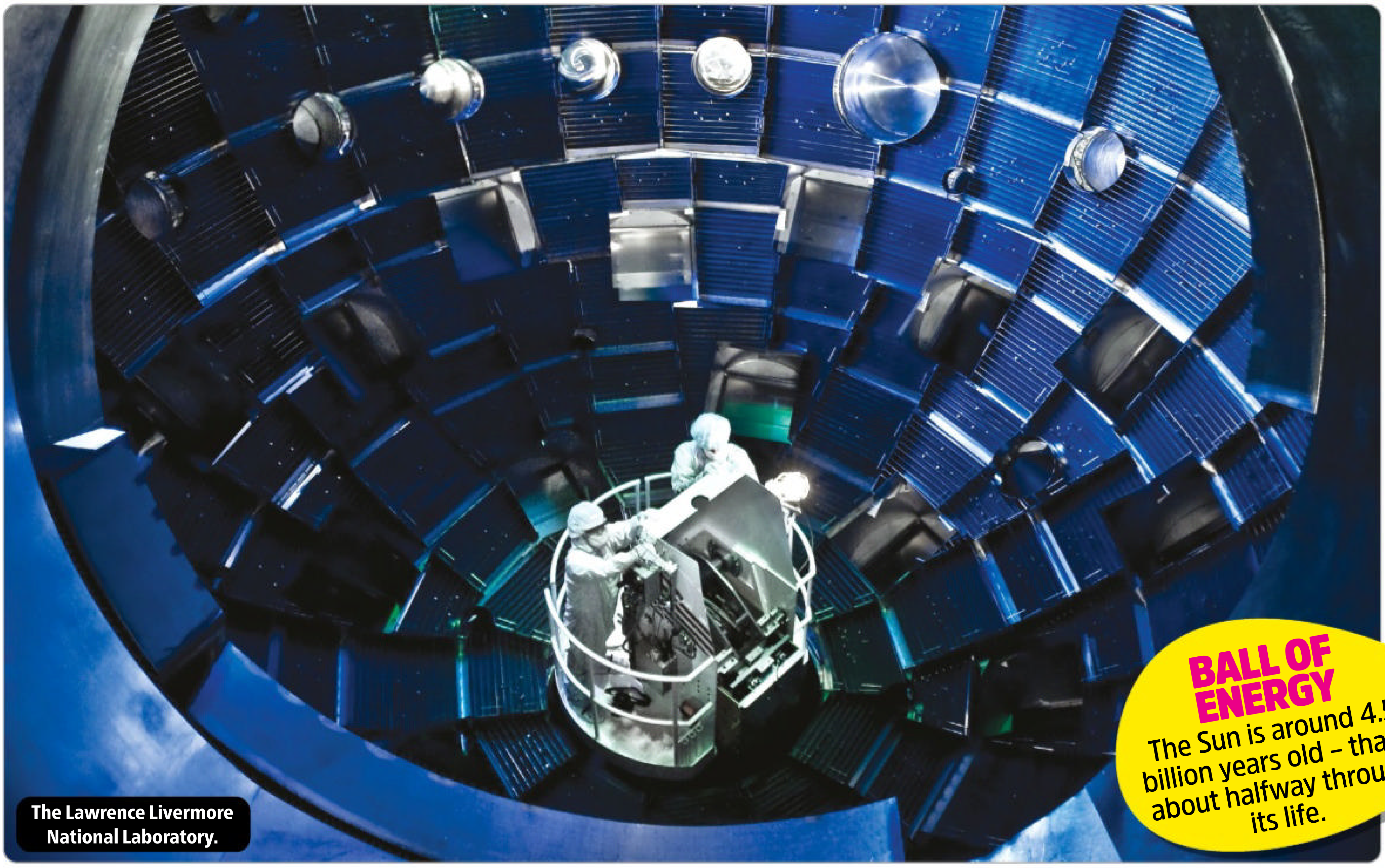
Many people hated the Bolsheviks and war broke out, during which the Bolsheviks killed the Tsar and his family. The Bolsheviks won the war and on 30 December 1922, the Soviet Union was created from the Russian Empire (the lands that had been ruled by the Tsar). Other countries were added over time. The Soviet Union lasted for nearly 70 years, before it finally broke apart in 1991, after which its individual countries, including Ukraine, became independent.

St Basil's Cathedral in Moscow.

Modern-day Russia

Even though the Soviet Union ended more than 30 years ago, Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, used its history as an excuse for invading Ukraine in February 2022. Putin says that since Ukraine was a part of the Soviet Union, it ought to be ruled by Russia again. Most world leaders strongly disagree with him, and Ukraine is still fighting the Russian invaders.

President Vladimir Putin



The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

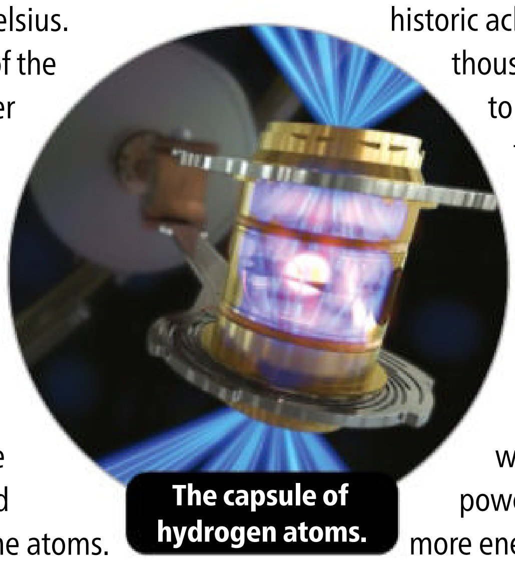
BALL OF ENERGY
The Sun is around 4.5 billion years old – that's about halfway through its life.

Big breakthrough for green energy

On 5 December, a group of scientists in the US made a major breakthrough in a process called nuclear fusion. For the first time ever, they produced more energy than they put into the experiment.

Nuclear fusion is the process that powers the Sun and other stars in our universe. It is called "fusion" because it involves atoms (the building blocks of all matter) fusing (joining) together. Recreating the process on Earth needs lasers (intense light beams) to heat up atoms of hydrogen (a type of gas) to 100 million degrees Celsius – hotter than the core of the Sun, which is 15 million degrees Celsius. The heat causes the central parts of the atoms, the "nuclei", to fuse together and form heavier atoms. As they do this, lots of energy is released – but it takes lots of energy to make it happen.

Researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), in the US, put a tiny amount of hydrogen into a capsule the size of a peppercorn and aimed lasers at it to heat and compress the atoms. The test created more energy than the lasers put in – there was enough power to boil about 17 kettles.



The capsule of hydrogen atoms.

This is exciting for scientists because nuclear fusion could give humans an almost unlimited source of "clean" energy – unlike burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, which are bad for the environment. Nuclear fusion is different to what takes place in nuclear power stations, which is called nuclear fission and involves splitting atoms apart. This also releases energy but it leaves behind a lot of harmful waste.

Dr Kim Budil, the director of LLNL, said, "This is a historic achievement. Over the past 60 years thousands of people have contributed to this endeavour (project) and it took real vision to get us here."

There is still a lot of research to be done, though. The amount of energy required to power the laser was still very high. Also, the experiment cost more than £2 billion. Scientists want to find a way to create nuclear fusion that is powered using less energy, creates lots more energy and is cheaper to do.

Sea-salt batteries give hope

Scientists in Australia have built a new battery using sodium-sulphur, a type of salt from sea water. The battery can store four times more energy than a standard lithium battery and would be cheap to make because sea salt is widely available. It is also better for the environment than other batteries, which use rare metals (such as lithium). Sea-salt batteries have been made before but this is easily the best model so far. The team are still working on the idea before the batteries can go on sale.

Sea-salt is a renewable ingredient for batteries.

ALAMY · LLNL

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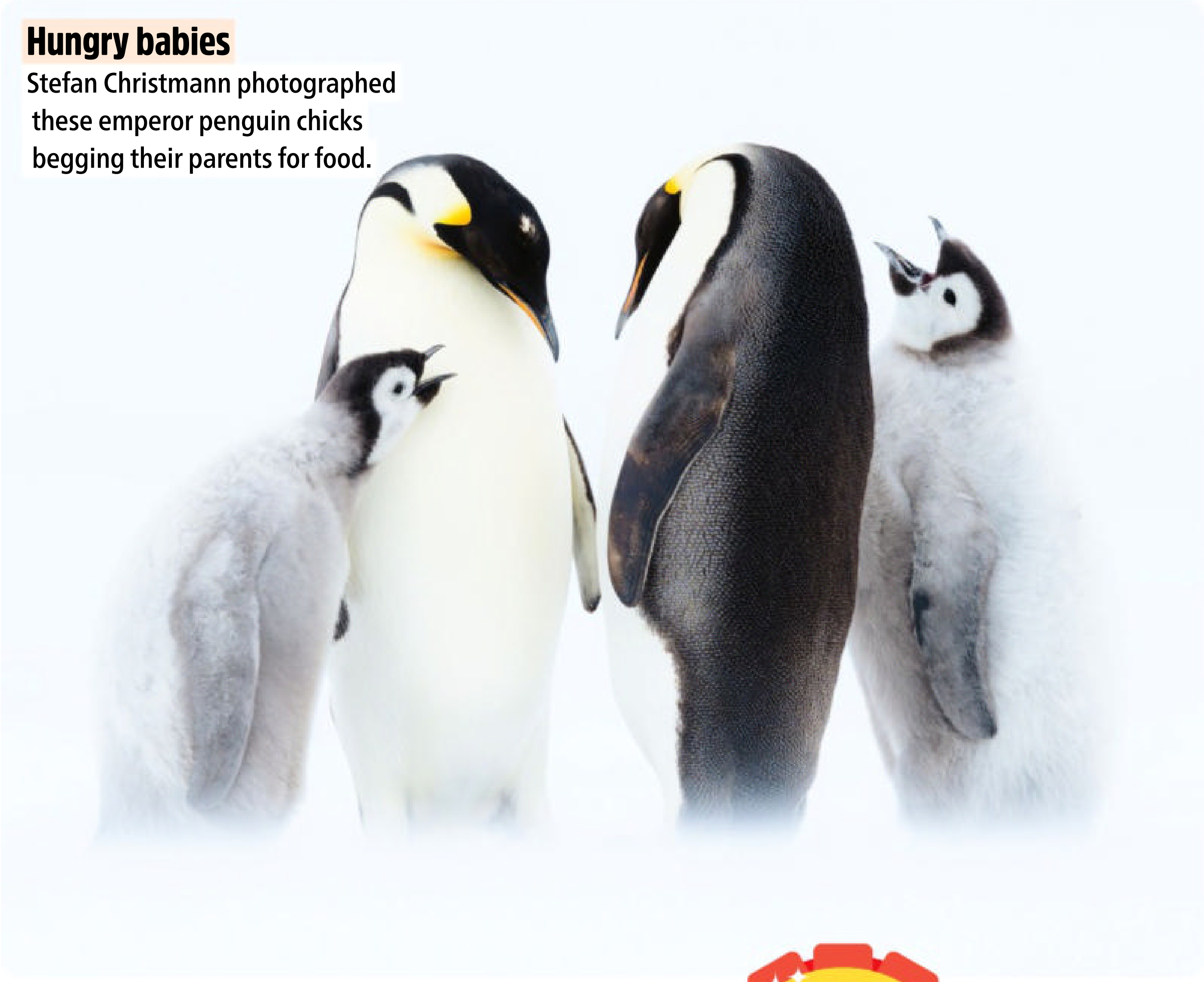
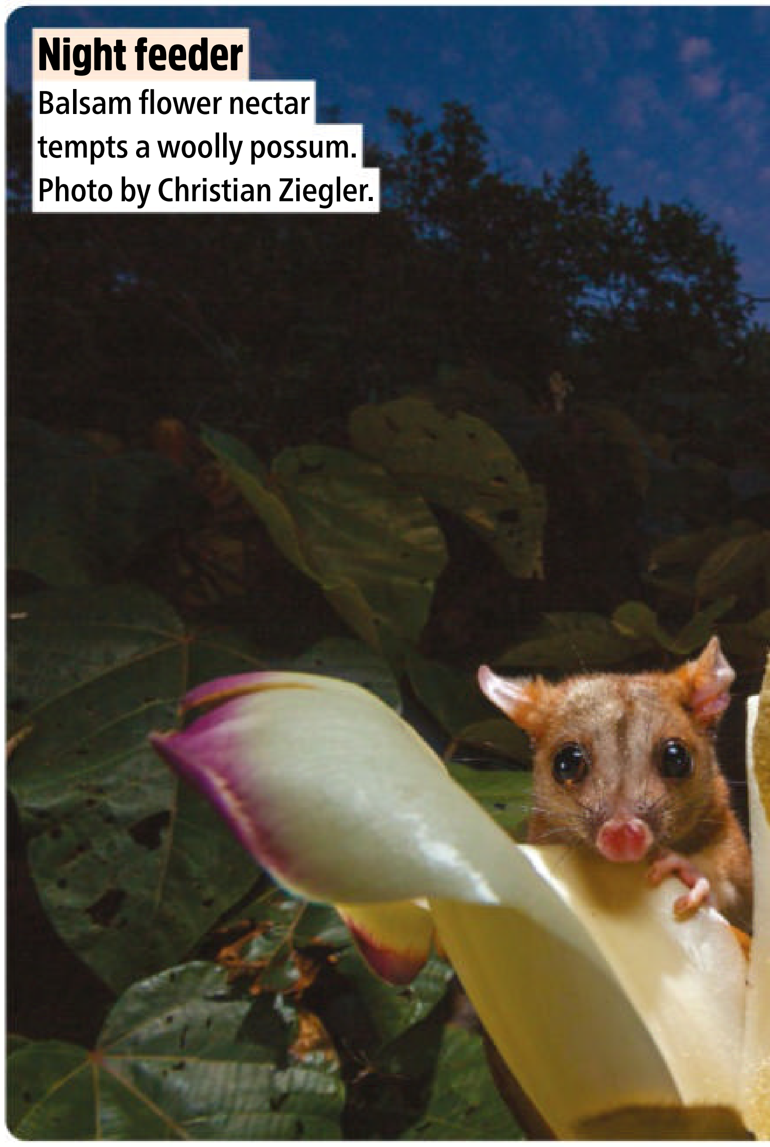
Photos of the week



Hungry babies

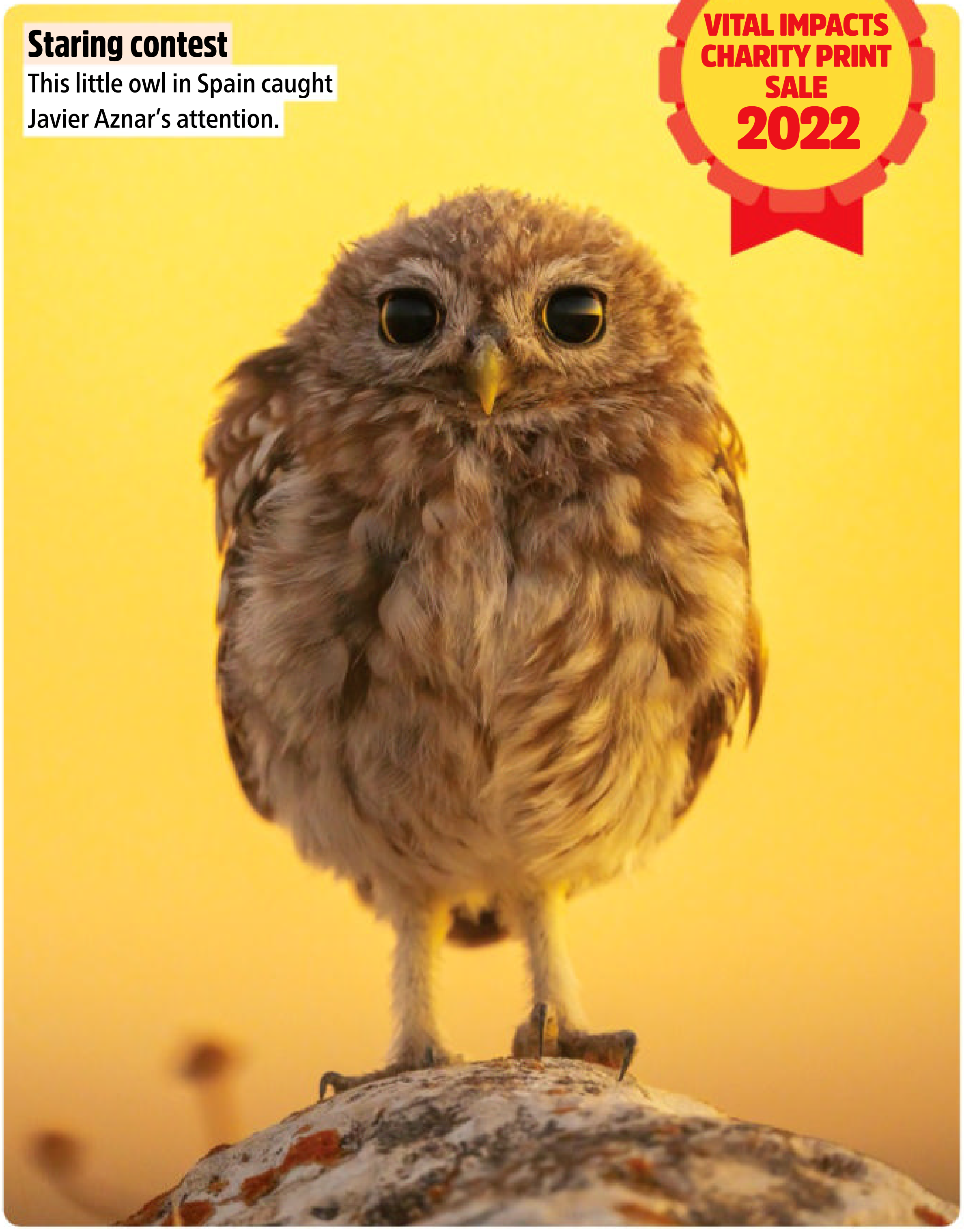
Stefan Christmann photographed these emperor penguin chicks begging their parents for food.



Night feeder

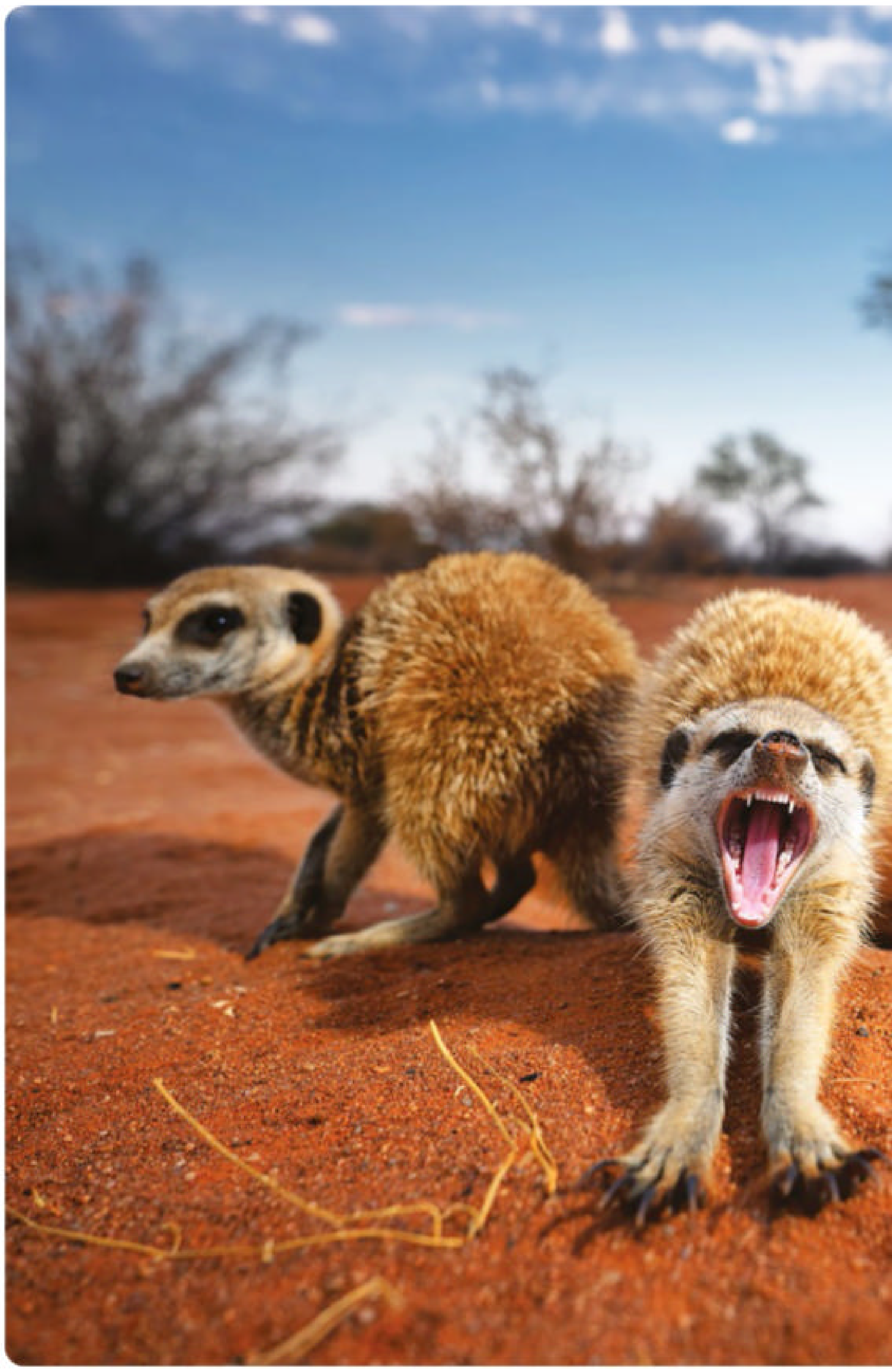
Balsam flower nectar tempts a woolly possum. Photo by Christian Ziegler.

VITAL IMPACTS CHARITY PRINT SALE 2022



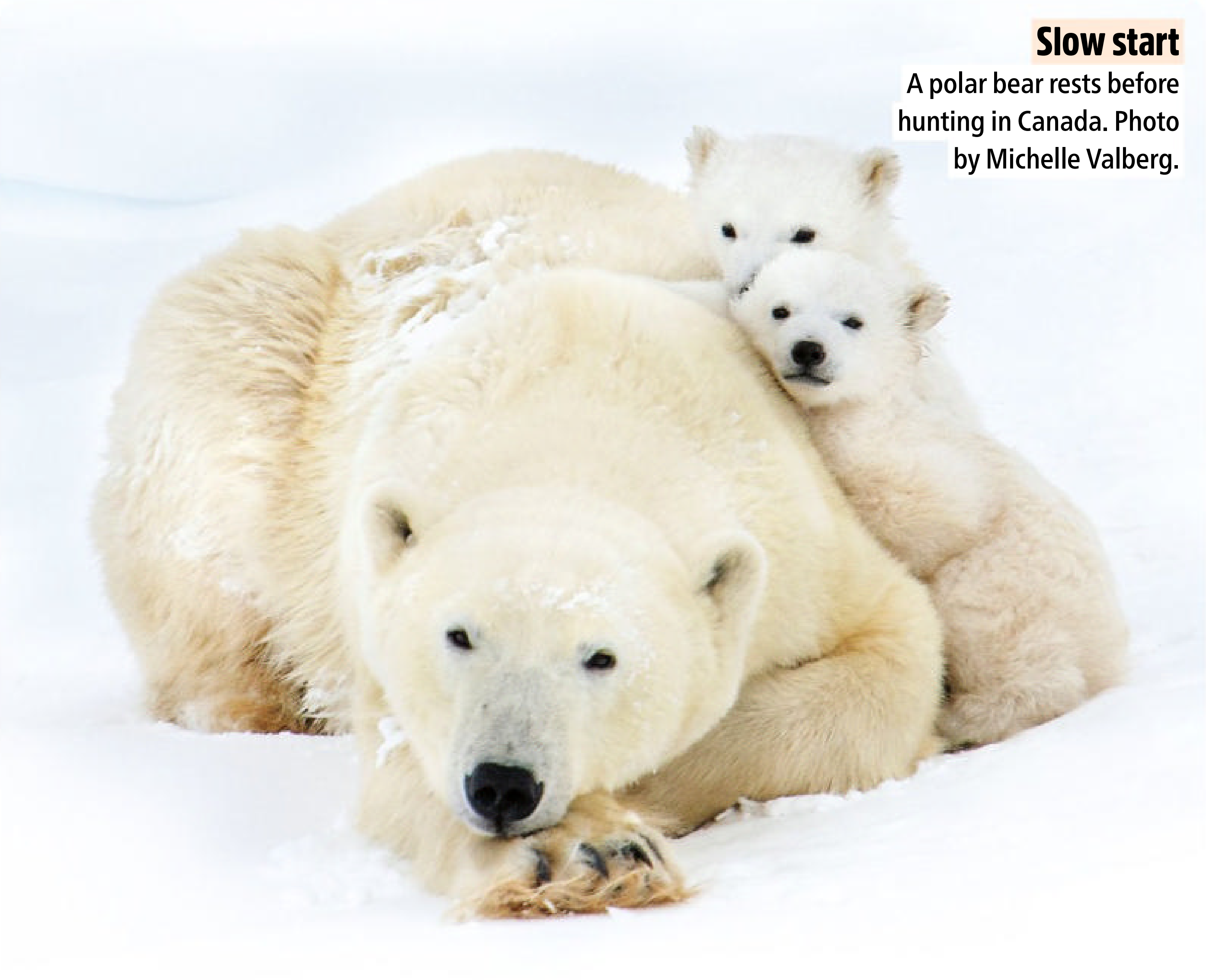
Staring contest

This little owl in Spain caught Javier Aznar's attention.

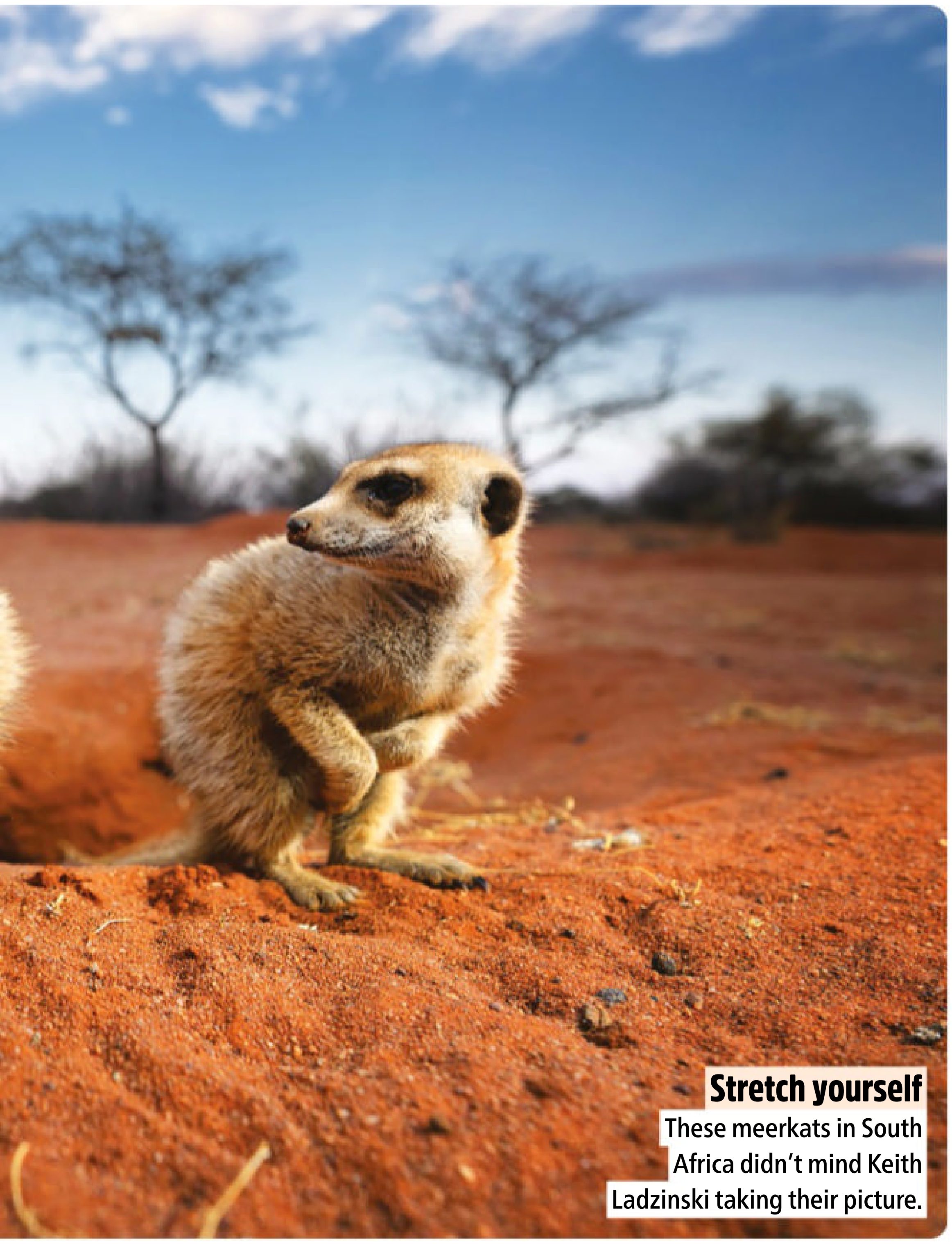


VITAL IMPACTS, A WOMEN-LED INITIATIVE, AIMS TO RAISE $1 MILLION DOLLARS THROUGH THE SALE OF FINE ART PRINTS FROM THE WORLD'S TOP PHOTOGRAPHERS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE PROTECTING ENDANGERED HABITATS. THEY ARE ALSO GIVING TWO $20,000 ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY GRANTS AND A MENTORSHIP PROGRAM TO FOSTER THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STORYTELLERS. ALL PRINTS CAN BE VIEWED AT: VITALIMPACTS.ORG

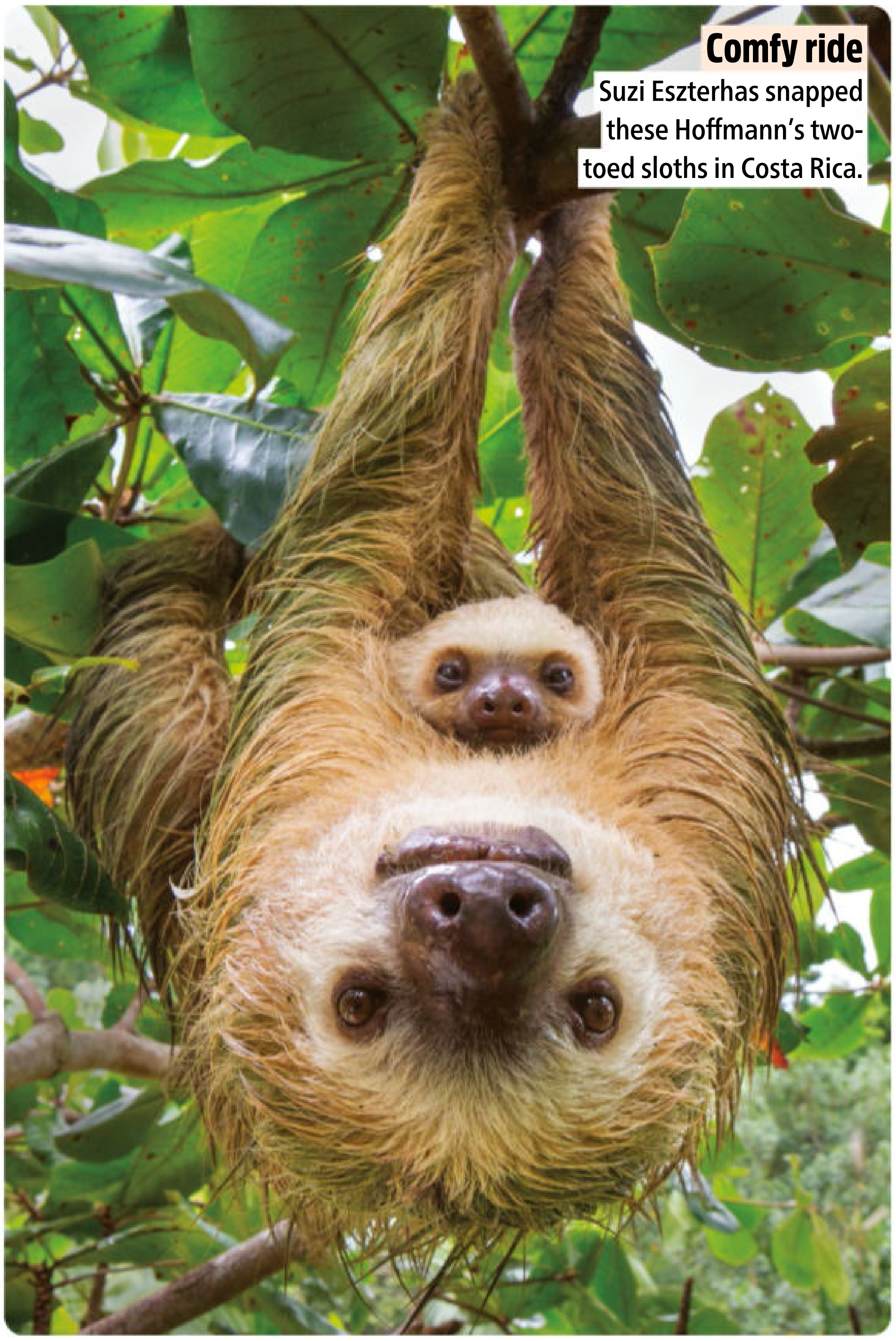
Photos of the week



Slow start
A polar bear rests before hunting in Canada. Photo by Michelle Valberg.



Stretch yourself
These meerkats in South Africa didn't mind Keith Ladzinski taking their picture.



Comfy ride
Suzi Eszterhas snapped these Hoffmann's two-toed sloths in Costa Rica.

FOOTY FAMILY
Lauren James plays for Chelsea women and her older brother, Reece, plays for the Chelsea men's team.

England to play Brazil

The Brazil women's team.

The women's World Cup kicks off on 20 July but before that, England's biggest match of the season will be the Finalissima. The Finalissima is a new contest in which England, the champions of Europe, take on Brazil, who are the champions of South America. The match will be played at Wembley Stadium, in London, on 6 April and more than 60,000 fans have already bought tickets.

Lauren James sets 2023 goals

After winning the Women's Super League (WSL) with Chelsea and playing her first game for England in September, Lauren James smashed some of her own personal goals in 2022. This year, she is hungry for even more success on the football pitch.

This summer, the women's World Cup will be held in Australia and new Zealand, and James is determined to be selected for the England squad. "I've always watched World Cups and it's a dream to be part of one," she told *The Week Junior.* "It's still several months away but we're building towards it and England want to try to win it." England won the 2022 UEFA European Women's Football Championship (Euro 2022) last summer at Wembley Stadium, London. Sadly, James was injured and couldn't take part. "I was at Wembley to watch the final. I was really happy for everyone and it was a great atmosphere. It was annoying because I wasn't playing but it did great things for women's football."

James plays as a forward, which means she tries to create – and score – lots of goals. She's aware that there are lots of talented goalscorers in the England squad, so she wants to learn from them. "There are experienced players like Beth Mead, who has been great. We all have different qualities. I believe I can play in a few positions, I'm very direct and I love to score for my team."

Lauren plays for Chelsea in the WSL.

THE WEEK'S WINNERS...

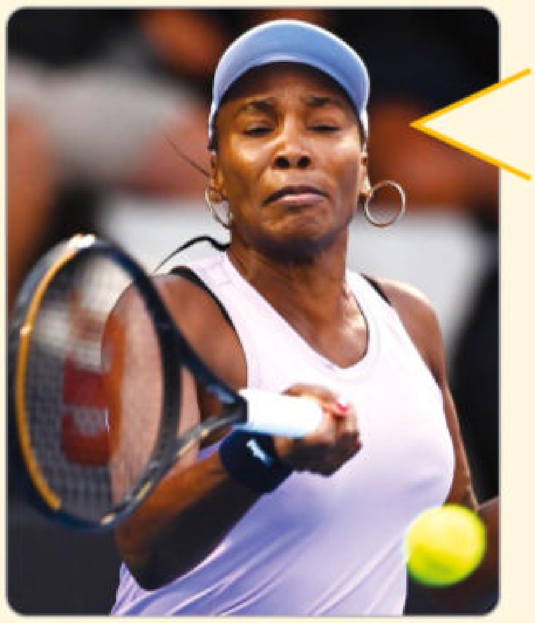
Surrey Scorchers

In the British Basketball League, Surrey Scorchers earned their second win of the season when they beat Bristol Flyers 78–73.

Gary McKee

On 31 December, McKee finished running his 365th marathon (26.2 miles) of 2022, one for each day of the year. McKee raised more than £1 million for charity.

SKINS
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



Venus Williams

The tennis star began the season with a win in the ASB Classic in New Zealand. It's her 30th year playing in the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Tour.

Northampton Saints

After losing their last four games, Northampton Saints managed a 46–17 victory over Harlequins in rugby union's Premiership.

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Beat the winter blues

Join the Red January challenge and get moving every day this month.

Get everyone out for a walk.

DID YOU KNOW?
At least 250,000 people have taken part in Red January, including *Strictly* judge Anton Du Beke.

Once the New Year buzz has passed, January can feel like hard work and many people find their mood drops (it is sometimes called "the winter blues"). Red January is a charity that focuses on improving wellbeing during the first month of the year – and anybody can get involved.

What's Red January's big idea?

"The idea is to move every day in January to beat the winter blues away," explains Hannah Beecham, who set up Red January. There are no rules when it comes to how you move. Playing outside, taking a dog for a walk or taking part in a sport all count. Beecham recommends getting creative with how you move, from skipping to paddle-boarding and Zumba classes. The only rule is that REDers (the name given to those who sign up) must move every day.

Will moving every day really help my wellbeing?

Yes. Physical activity releases endorphins (feel-good chemicals) that improve your mood. It also reduces stress and can improve your self-esteem (how you feel about yourself). By moving each day, many REDers find they spend more time outdoors, whatever the weather. This is especially important in winter, when there's less sunlight (a natural mood booster) so you need to make the most of it. Research carried out by the University of Oxford found that more than 50% of people who took part in Red January felt less stressed. Beecham says this month is the perfect time to get moving because we tend to be less active in winter and many people find they need extra tools to support their wellbeing.

Sunshine boosts mood.

How do I get involved?

Your first step, explains Beecham, is to ask a parent or guardian to sign up. Once you've done that you can download a free calendar and start planning your daily activities. The charity's online activity pack includes a guide to making your very own fundraising pot, where close friends, family and classmates can donate money for your efforts. Some schools organise a "wear red" day on 31 January. Find out more and sign up at join.redjanuary.com

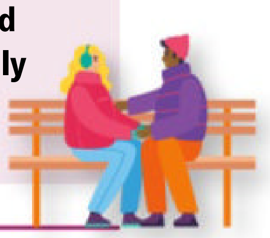
"Being outside makes you feel alive!"

Delilah (11) and Quinn (12) first heard about Red January when their mum signed them up. Delilah finds running hard but she loves the sense of achievement at the end. Quinn recommends setting yourself a goal and taking it a day at a time. As Delilah says, "If you only feel like going for a walk, that's much better than sitting doing nothing." Plus, their dogs Frank and Ozzy are always ready to go out for a run.

Top tips for new REDers

Are you tempted to get active every day for a month? Here's some advice from Red January's founder Hannah Beecham:

- **Keep it simple and start small. Some days you might just run up and down stairs or dance in your living room.**
- **Buddy up and do Red January with a friend or family member. It really helps to keep you motivated.**
- **Try a new activity that you've always wanted to do.**
- **Don't be put off by bad weather. Go on a family walk or bike ride. The rain will wake you up.**



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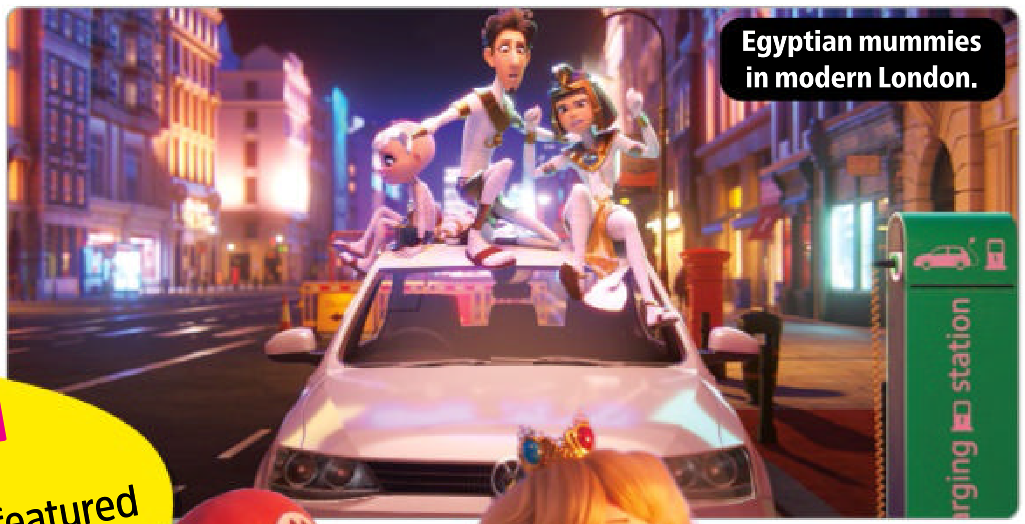
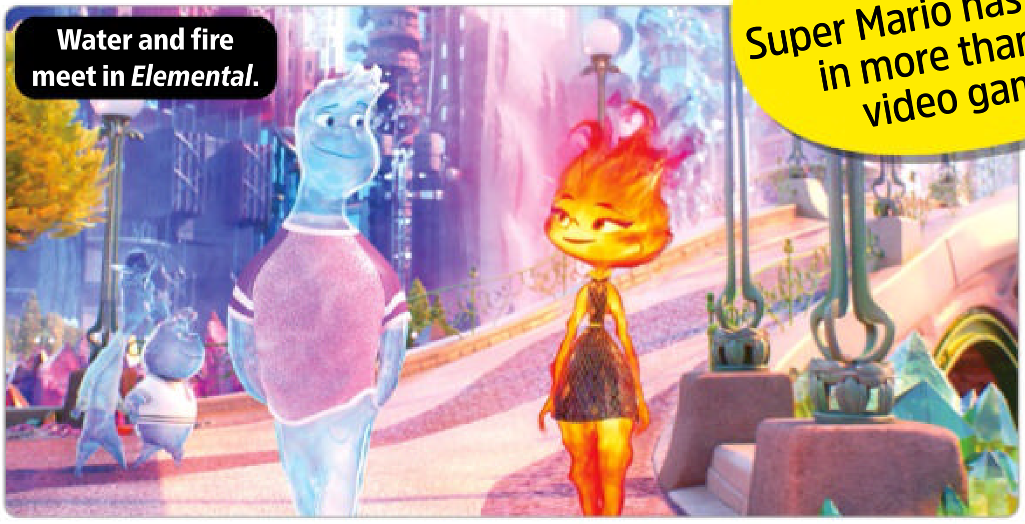
This year’s biggest films

Get ready for a year of exciting new films, with live-action adventures and fantastical animated tales.

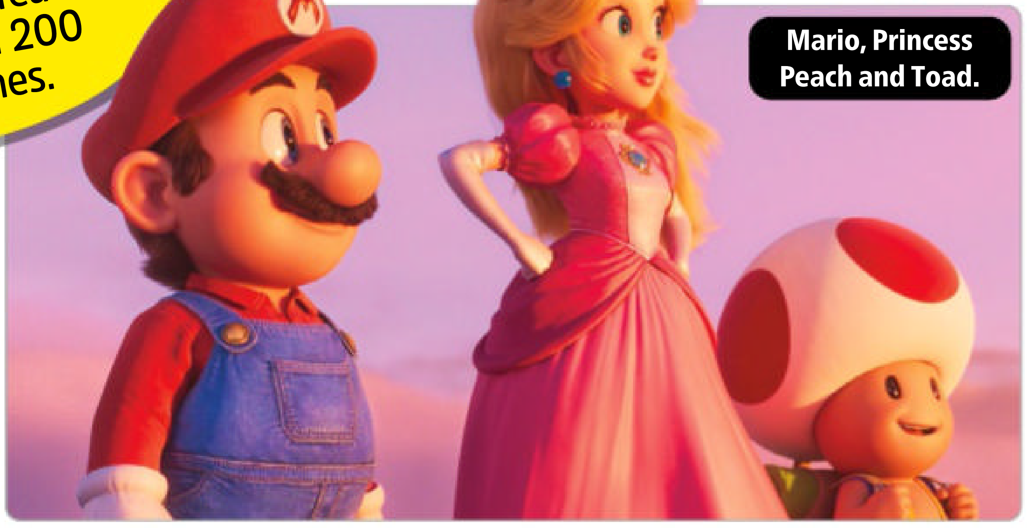
Ant-Man is back.



Egyptian mummies in modern London.



Water and fire meet in *Elemental*.



Mario, Princess Peach and Toad.

SCREEN STAR

Super Mario has featured in more than 200 video games.

The year has only just started but we’re already looking forward to all the exciting films due to be released this year. Classic stories and characters are set to return or get new versions, and some original tales are coming too.

Judy Blume’s much-loved novel, *Are You There, God? It’s Me, Margaret*, has finally been adapted for the screen. It’s about 11-year-old Margaret, who moves to a new town and battles with the usual problems of growing up, from new relationships to a changing body.

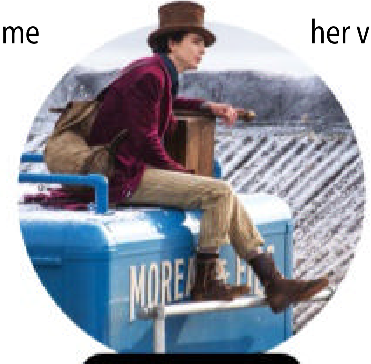
If you prefer to stay in the realm of fantasy, Disney releases its live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid* this year. Halle Bailey from the singing duo Chloe x Halle stars as the mermaid who gives up her voice in return for human legs.

Another popular tale is revisited in *Wonka*, which will take viewers back in time before the events of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. It follows a teenaged Willy Wonka, who wants to share his wacky candy creations with the world.

Marvel fans won’t be disappointed this year. Both Ant-Man and the Guardians return in *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* and *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3*. Captain Marvel is back in *The Marvels*, too, along with some new faces.

Video game star Mario will jump screens to star in *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*. The film shows Mario’s friends, including Toad and Princess Peach, battling the evil tortoise Bowser.

Other animated films include *Mummies* – all about three mummies who have to visit the world of the living and find a precious ring in London. Pixar’s next film, *Elemental*, is set in a city where the four elements – earth, fire, air and water – live together. It’s about a fiery woman and a go-with-the-flow guy who have more in common than they thought.



Meet a young Willy Wonka.

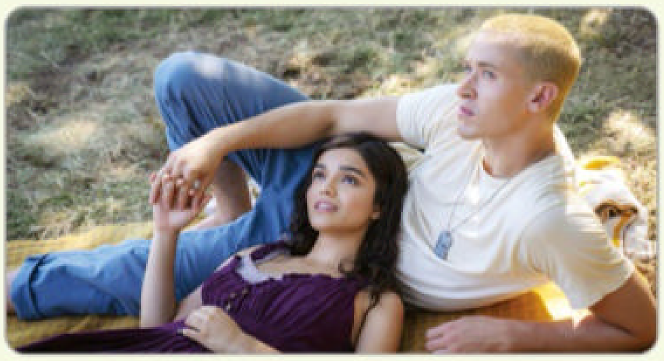
Three of 2023’s most exciting new instalments

Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny

The fifth Indiana Jones film revisits the famous explorer as he approaches retirement. He may think that his days of adventuring are done but a familiar evil will drag him into one last quest.

The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

This film visits Panem before the events of the original *Hunger Games* series. It follows a young Coriolanus Snow, before he becomes the evil President.



Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse

In this computer-animated sequel to *Into the Spider-Verse*, Miles Morales travels across the multiverse to team up with Gwen Stacy. With a team of spider-people in tow, they will fight against a greater threat than any they’ve ever faced before.

2022 MARVEL · 4 CATS PICTURES SL · ANAGU GRUP SLA · MOOMIOS MOVIE AIE 2021 · 2022 NINTENDO & UNIVERSAL STUDIOS · GETTY IMAGES · 2022 CTMG INC. · MURRAY CLOSE · 2022 LUCASFILM

Design your own theme park in Park Beyond.

Gamers buckle up for fun

We take a look at the most exciting, thrilling games that are due out in the next few months.

Plenty of fantastic games came out in 2022 – but this year is shaping up to be just as good, whether you play on a console, a computer or a phone.

First up, big news for Minecraft fans. A brand new Minecraft game called Minecraft Legends is coming out in the spring. This game is less about crafting and building and more about battling. In the new game your goal is to save the world from the Piglins – a gang of pig-like ruffians who love all things gold.

It's an action-strategy game for all consoles and PC, starring lots of the mobs (characters) that you will be familiar with from Minecraft and Minecraft Dungeons.

Fly in the sky in the new Legend of Zelda.

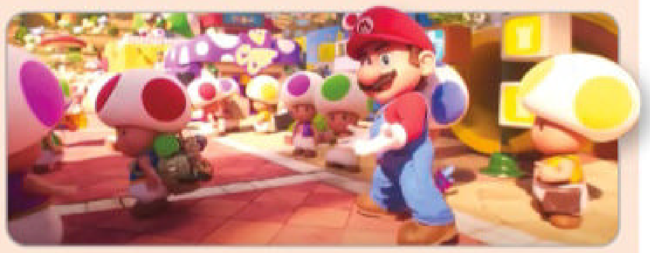
Next up, something for Legend of Zelda fans. It's been five years since The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild came out for Nintendo's Switch, and it remains one of the best adventures available on that console. The exciting news is that its sequel, The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom, will be out this May. Hero Link will be exploring the mystical world of Hyrule (a land in the Zelda universe) – including getting a view from above by flying through the sky.

Kerbal Space Program 2 is a game where you can learn about the technology used to build space rockets. The game puts you in charge of constructing and launching rockets, exploring the universe and then finding a way to live on distant planets. It will come out for PCs first, then consoles later.

Finally, if you love real-life rollercoasters and rides then Park Beyond will be for you. This game turns you into a theme-park designer, allowing you to create and construct the wildest rides you have ever imagined.

Build a rocket in Kerbal Space Program 2.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK



THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE

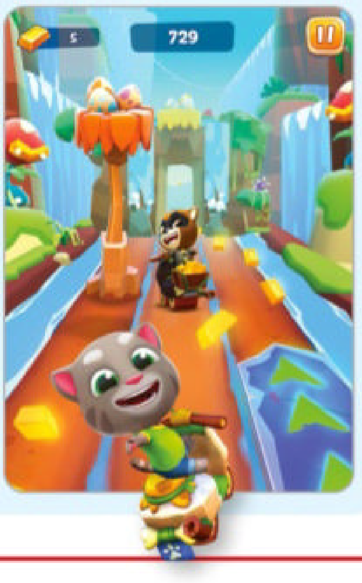
tinyurl.com/TWJ-MarioBros

The next big film based on a game is 2023's *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*, putting Mario back on the big screen. Check out the official trailer.

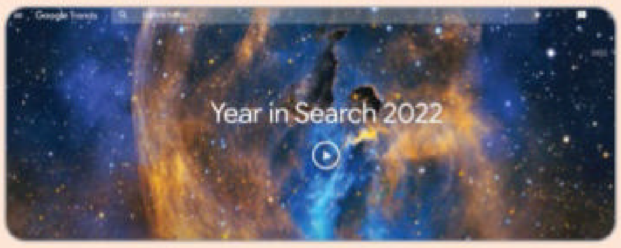
GAME OF THE WEEK

TALKING TOM TIME RUSH

Popular app Talking Tom is back. In this "endless runner" game, your role as Tom is to avoid obstacles, collect power-ups and never, ever stop running!



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



Year in Search 2022

YEAR IN SEARCH 2022

yearinsearch.google

What were the most searched-for games, food, music and people on the web last year? Find out on this site. Was it Queen Elizabeth II or Wordle?

NAMCO BANDAI · NINTENDO · OUTFIT GAMES · GOOGLE

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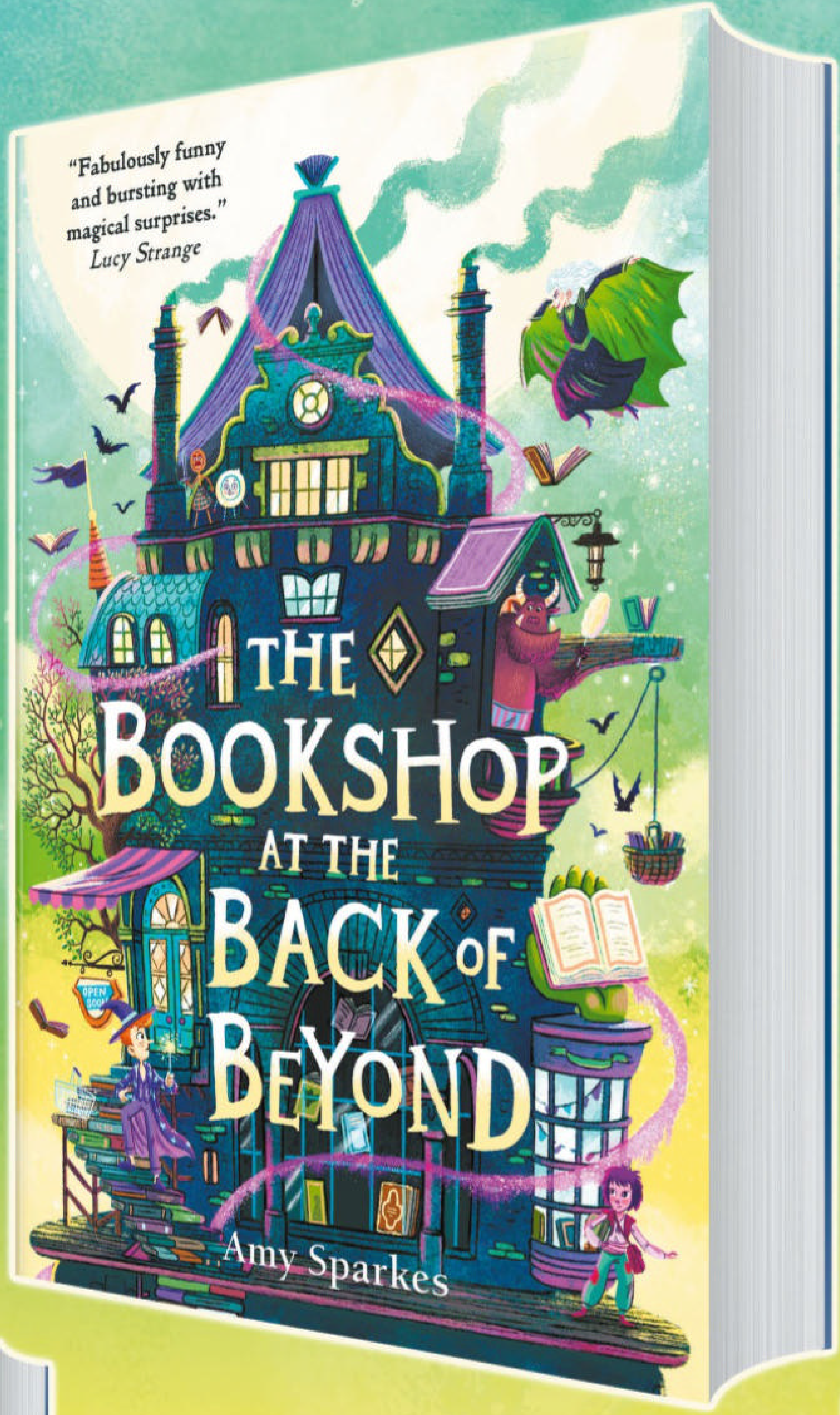
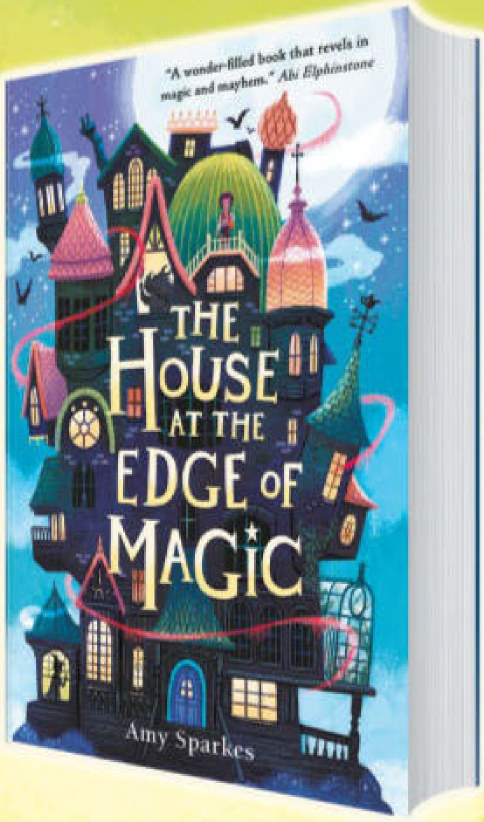
Open the door to a magical world...


"Fabulously funny and bursting with magical surprises." Lucy Strange
THE BOOKSHOP AT THE BACK OF BEYOND
Amy Sparkes


"A wonder-filled book that revels in magic and mayhem." Abi Elphinstone
THE HOUSE AT THE EDGE OF MAGIC
Amy Sparkes

"Fabulously funny and bursting with magical surprises."
Lucy Strange

"Non-stop, endlessly inventive fun." Sinéad O'Hart
THE TOWER AT THE END OF TIME
Amy Sparkes

WALKER BOOKS

Illustration © Ben Mantle

Book club

5 books full of indoor activities

Liven up winter weekends with these books packed with fun things to try out inside.

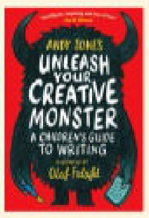
Peter's Baking Party

by Peter Sawkins

(Bonnier Books)

Become a star baker with this cookery book written by *Great British Bake Off* winner Peter Sawkins. There are plenty of simple recipes for beginners, as well as more challenging bakes for adventurous cooks. Try whipping up fluffy breakfast pancakes, peanut butter cookies or even the perfect birthday cake.

Unleash Your Creative Monster

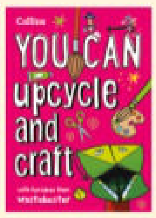


by Andy Jones. Illustrated by Olaf Falafel

(Walker Books)

Have a go at producing your own stories with this entertaining and imaginative guide to creative writing. You'll find lots of practical advice, useful writing tools, tips for finding inspiration and keeping a story moving forwards, as well as some fun story prompts and exercises to get you started.

YOU CAN Upcycle and Craft

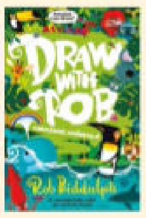


by Wastebuster

(Collins Kids)

Find out how to make great stuff from things that are usually thrown away in this brilliant, eco-friendly craft book. Turn an old jumper into a hat, create a tin-can nightlight or transform a milk carton into a bird feeder – all while helping to protect the planet by reducing waste.

Draw With Rob: Amazing Animals

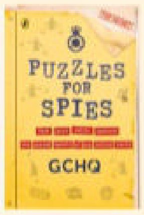


by Rob Biddulph

(HarperCollins Children's)

Bestselling author and illustrator Rob Biddulph's #DrawWithRob online videos are hugely popular. In this fun new art activity book, Biddulph shows you how to draw all your favourite flying, swimming or swinging animals, with plenty of easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions.

Puzzles for Spies



by GCHQ

(Puffin Books)

Ever wondered if you'd make a good spy? This puzzle book will test your secret agent skills with brainteasers, challenges, codes and word riddles. It is based on the real-life codebreaking work of GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters), who work in secret to gather information, solve problems and watch out for danger facing the UK.

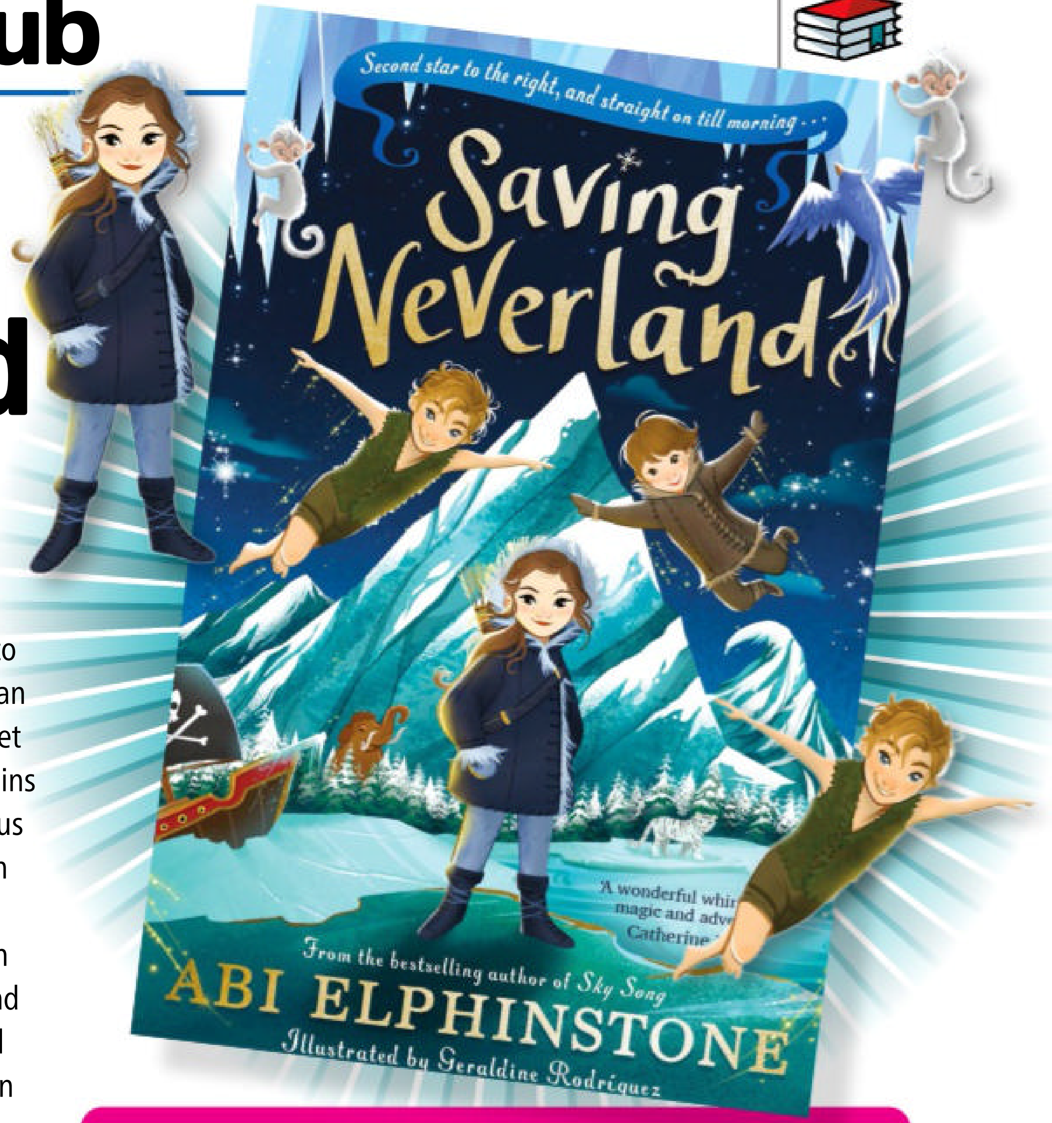
BOOK OF THE WEEK

Saving Neverland

by Abi Elphinstone. Illustrated by Geraldine Rodriguez

(Puffin Books)

Ten-year-old Martha Pennydrop and her little brother Scruff have moved to a new house in London. It looks like an ordinary townhouse but it has a secret magical history. Their adventure begins when they find a drawer of mysterious gold dust in the bedroom, along with a window that's impossible to close. Soon, a barefoot boy called Peter Pan and a fairy called Muddle turn up, and they are in need of help. The magical world of Neverland is in the grip of an icy curse, cast by the villainous pirate Captain Hook. Martha and Scruff must join the Lost Kids and go to Neverland to help save it. Abi Elphinstone has put a fresh new spin on the classic story of Peter Pan. A wintry adventure, packed with excitement, it is about growing up and the power of imagination.


Second star to the right, and straight on till morning . . .
Saving Neverland
'A wonderful whi
magic and adve
Catherine
From the bestselling author of Sky Song
ABI ELPHINSTONE
Illustrated by Geraldine Rodriguez

WIN! We're giving away five copies of *Saving Neverland.*

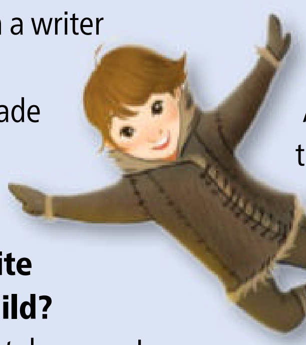
For a chance to win a copy, just fill in the entry form at tinyurl.com/TWJ-books-369 before the closing date of 13 January at 11.59pm. Make sure you have a parent or guardian's permission to enter.

ASK THE AUTHOR

Abi Elphinstone

The *Saving Neverland* author shares shark facts and her favourite books.

Where did you grow up?
In rural Scotland. Weekends were spent building dens, camping on the moors and climbing trees. Every remote landscape I see sparks a story I often say I'm a writer because the wilderness made me one.



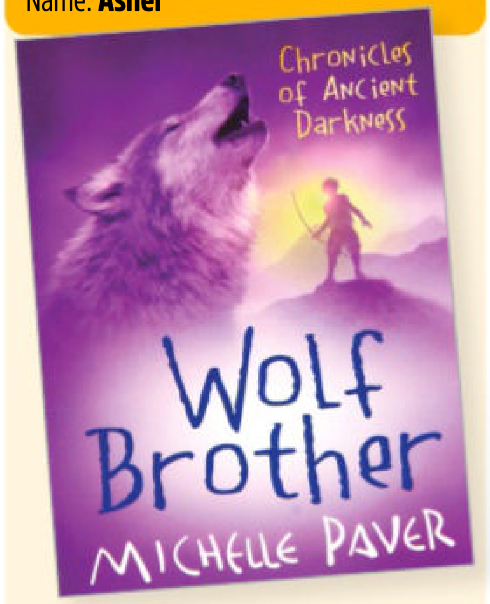
What was your favourite book as a child?
Northern Lights because Lyra showed me girls can be as brave as boys, grown-ups and armoured polar bears. Or *The BFG* because the invented words – snozzcumber, whizzpopping – made me giggle and inspired me to create my own silly words.

What's the best age?
My heroine,10-year-old Martha Pennydrop, assumes that "10 is the beginning of the end," but she discovers 10 is when the world opens up. You're on the doorstep of the rest of your life. As long as you remember that growing up involves growing down, as well.

Funniest joke you know?
I'm hopeless at telling jokes. So, here is one of my favourite facts: the Greenland shark can live for 500 years, so there are Greenland sharks who were alive when Henry VIII was king and toilets hadn't even been invented!

READERS RECOMMEND

Name: **Asher**



Wolf Brother

By Michelle Paver

"Breathtaking, spellbinding, adventurous. Impossible to put down. A mindblowing adventure that carries you back to a shadowy world crawling with magic."

YOUR TURN

Email your book review to *hello@theweekjunior.co.uk*. If your review is printed in the magazine you'll receive a Roving Reporter badge. Tell us what you liked about the book and why you'd recommend it to others, and don't forget to include your name and address.*

GERALDINE RODRIGUEZ

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*If you are the competition winner, we will only use the details you provide to contact you and arrange delivery of your competition prize. Further details about how we manage the data you provide can be found at www.futureplc.com/privacy-policy

ALL EARS
Around 400 million people worldwide listen to podcasts.

With basic kit, anyone can make a podcast.

Get yourself heard and have fun when you…

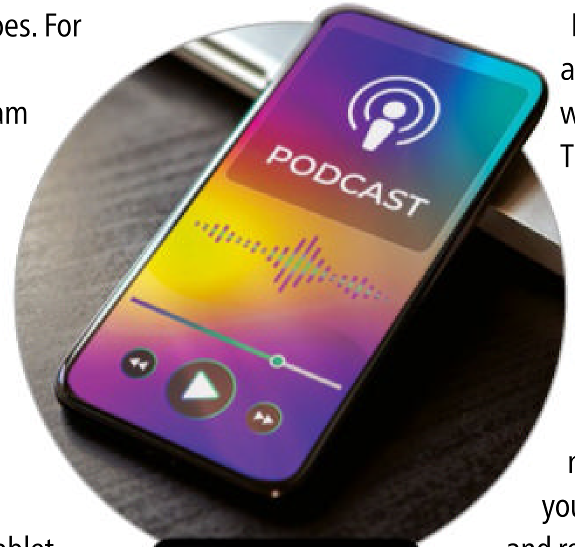
Make a podcast

Have you ever listened to a podcast? It is basically a recording that you can listen to on a phone, tablet or computer. It's a bit like a short radio show that you can hear whenever you want.

There are podcasts for people of all ages and they can be about anything. You can find podcasts about comedy, gaming, history, sport – even superheroes. For example, *The Week Junior Show,* which comes out every Friday, features the team talking about the week's news, and our sister magazine, *Science+Nature,* has a brilliant podcast called *Mysteries of Science,* in which experts help to investigate baffling scientific puzzles. However, with some basic equipment and a good idea, anyone can have a go at making their own show.

First of all, you need a recording device. This is usually a computer or a tablet, but you can use a phone. Most phones, tablets and computers have built-in microphones but for clearer sound it's better to use a separate microphone. The simplest is a USB microphone, which connects to a recording device by a USB cable. Then ask a grown-up to help you download a podcast app, such as GarageBand, Anchor or SoundCloud and you're ready to go.

Before you record, make a plan. Choose a theme for your show and note down what you want to talk about and when. This is called a "running order". It's easier to speak with someone else, so ask a friend or member of your family to join in. Once it's recorded, you can make your podcast sound better by adding sound effects and music on the app. You can also make basic edits. Editing means taking out bits of the recording you don't like. Next, save your recording and remember to share it. Once you've shared it, people can listen in. Happy podcasting!



You can make a podcast on a phone.

HOW, WHAT, WHERE?

How can I listen?

You can find most podcasts through apps such as Google Podcasts, Spotify and BBC Sounds. Ask an adult before you download anything. You can listen to episodes at home through your device's speaker or use headphones. Listening to them in the car is a fun way to pass the time.

Who else can help?

Talk to your teacher about making a school or class podcast. It could be about school achievements, events or issues. Some schools run podcast clubs where pupils learn how to make episodes. It might even be possible to make podcast episodes available on your school's website.

"IT'S A GREAT FEELING"

Name: Iris

Iris helped a group called Eastside Community Trust in Bristol, England, to make a podcast about the local area. "Knowing people around the world would listen to something I helped out with was a great feeling. The podcast is a way to broadcast everyone's opinions and experiences. It was a great way to bring the community together."

REX SHUTTERSTOCK

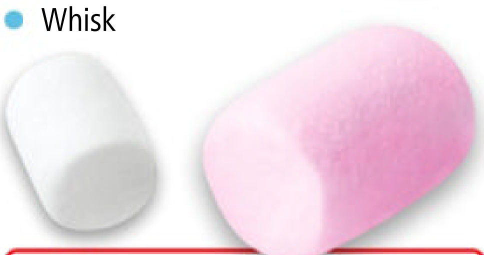
Whizz up some hot chocolate

Is there a better way to warm up on a chilly winter's day than with a mug of comforting hot chocolate? You don't always need to go to a coffee shop, however. With a little help from an adult, it's easy to learn how to make a scrumptious mug of hot chocolate at home. Collect together your basic ingredients and get creative with different toppings like squirty cream and syrups, then serve your drink with a biscuit dipper.

Once you've mastered making your hot chocolate, you could even become your family's very own barista (person who prepares and serves hot drinks) and set up a "hot chocolate service station" in your kitchen. Make a big batch of hot chocolate and set out a selection of mugs, toppings and dippers for everyone to make their own perfect combination.

What you need (makes one mug)

- 250ml of **milk** or a non-dairy alternative
- 1 tbsp cocoa powder
- 1 tbsp light brown sugar
- 25g chocolate
- For the topping (optional): chocolate sprinkles, **squirty cream**, **marshmallows**
- For the dippers (optional): cookies, rolled wafer biscuits
- Measuring jug
- Tablespoon
- Grater
- Small plate
- Small saucepan
- Whisk



Allergy information

Ingredients in **bold** are allergens. Allergens are substances that can cause allergic reactions in some people. If you have a food allergy, carefully check the items listed. You can find more information at tinyurl.com/TWJ-allergy

CHRIS ALACK · GETTY IMAGES

The perfect treat after a winter walk.

DOCTORS' DRINK

In the 19th century, hot chocolate was given by doctors as a cure for constipation (being unable to poo).

WARNING!

Check with an adult before you use the hob.

Instructions

1 Check with an adult before you start and clear and prepare your work station. Collect the ingredients together. Measure the ingredients using the jug and tablespoon. Grate the chocolate onto a small plate.

2 Turn on the hob to a low-to-medium heat. Pour the milk, then add the cocoa powder and sugar into the saucepan and place on the hob. Add most of the chocolate.

3 Using the whisk, beat the ingredients together so the cocoa powder dissolves. If you like your hot chocolate to be really frothy, whisk it even more.

4 After a few minutes the milk should start to steam. Make sure it does not get too hot and boil because that can change the taste of the drink.

5 With the help of an adult, take the saucepan off the hob and carefully pour the hot chocolate into a mug.

6 Add toppings such as cream and marshmallows so they float on top. Sprinkle on the rest of the grated chocolate and enjoy.

Head to theweekjunior.co.uk/activityhub for more crafts and recipes.

SCAN ME

Puzzles

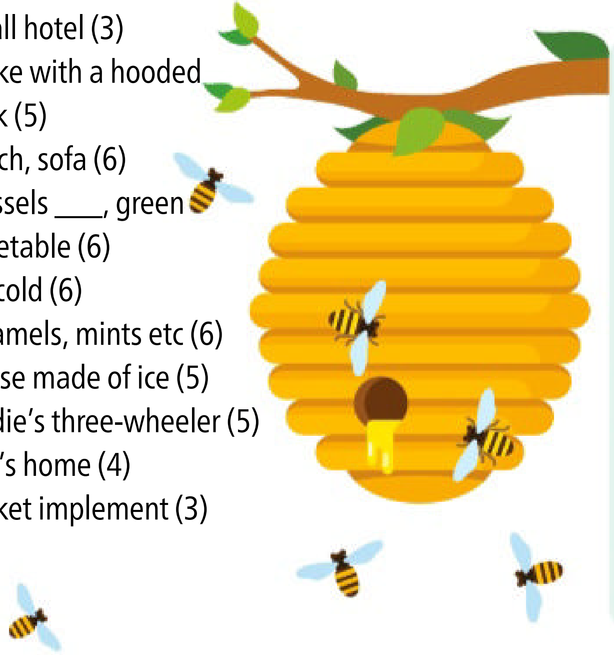
Crossword

Read the clues carefully and write the answers into the grid.

Across
1 Large pond (4)
3 Travelling show with clowns (6)
8 Safe enclosed area for toddlers (7)
9 Small piece (3)
10 Clothing that blends in with natural surroundings (10)
13 Garments sometimes worn under suit jackets (10)
17 Long, slippery fish (3)
18 Honey-makers' home (7)
19 Footballer's trousers (6)
20 Portable canvas shelter (4)

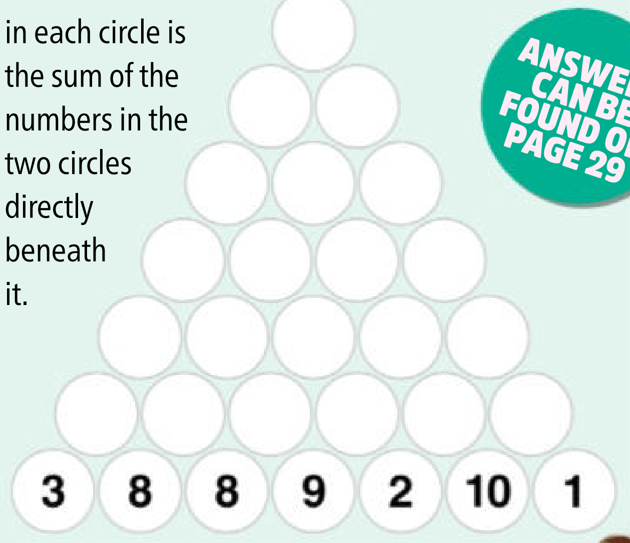
Down
1 Edges of the mouth (4)
2 Australian marsupial that looks like a small bear (5)
4 Small hotel (3)
5 Snake with a hooded neck (5)
6 Couch, sofa (6)
7 Brussels ___, green vegetable (6)
11 Ice-cold (6)
12 Caramels, mints etc (6)
14 House made of ice (5)
15 Kiddie's three-wheeler (5)
16 Bird's home (4)
18 Cricket implement (3)

1		2		■	3	4		5		6
	■		■	7	■		■		■	
8							■	9		
	■		■		■	■	■		■	
■	10					11				
12	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	
13		14						15		■
	■		■	■	■		■		■	16
17			■	18						
	■		■		■		■		■	
19						■	20			



Number tower

Place a number in every circle to complete the tower. The value in each circle is the sum of the numbers in the two circles directly beneath it.



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29

Sudoku

Place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column and 2x3 bold-lined box, to complete the grid.

	4	1	6	3	
3	5			1	2
		4	5		
	3			6	
1					6

Word jumble

Rearrange the scrambled letters to form four words linked to athletics.

DLEHUR

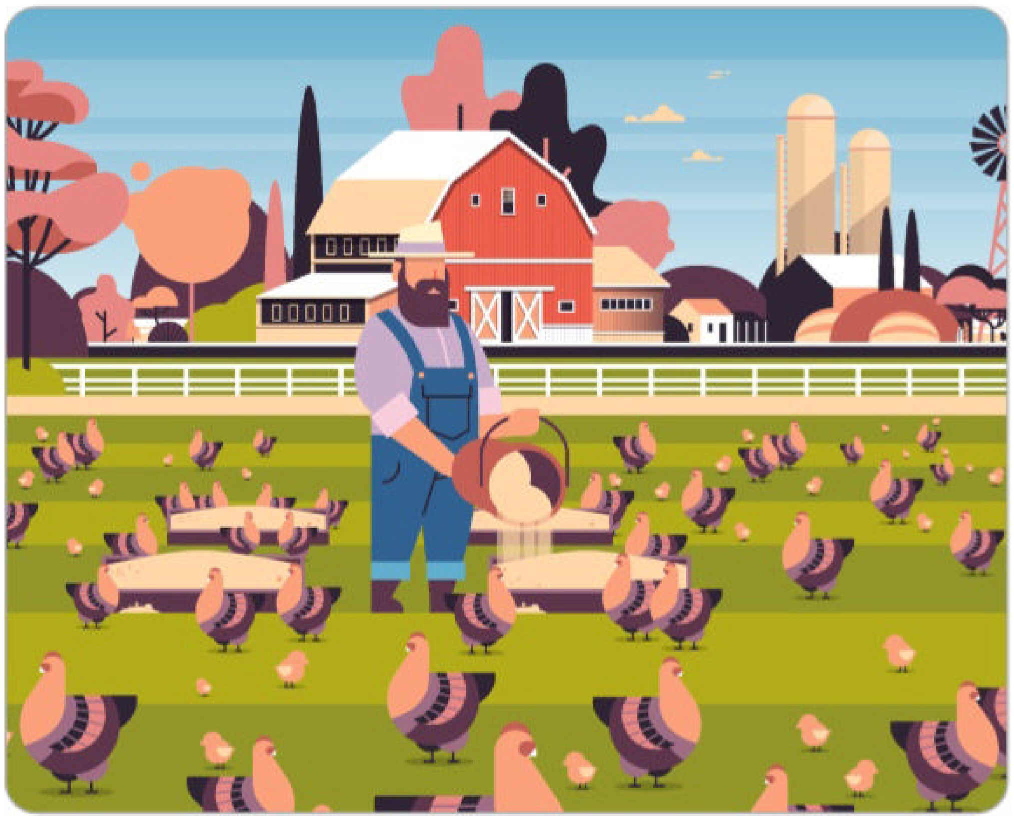
ACKRT

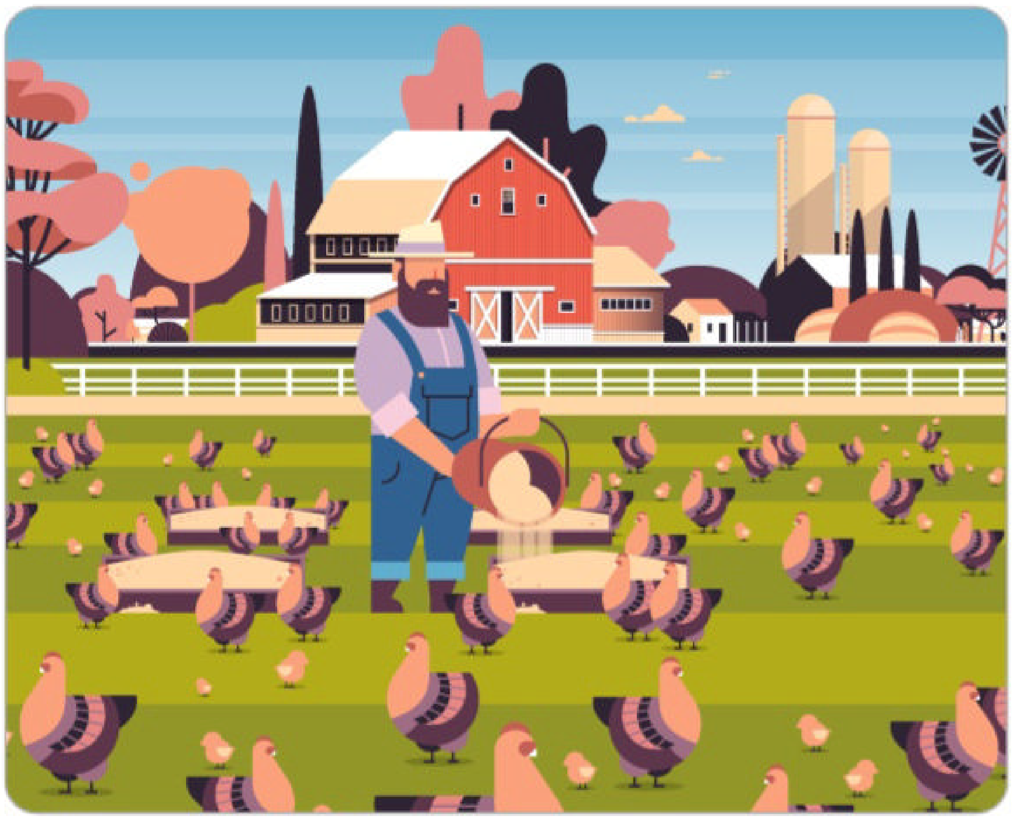
USSCDI

INSTRP

Spot the difference

These two pictures appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you spot them?





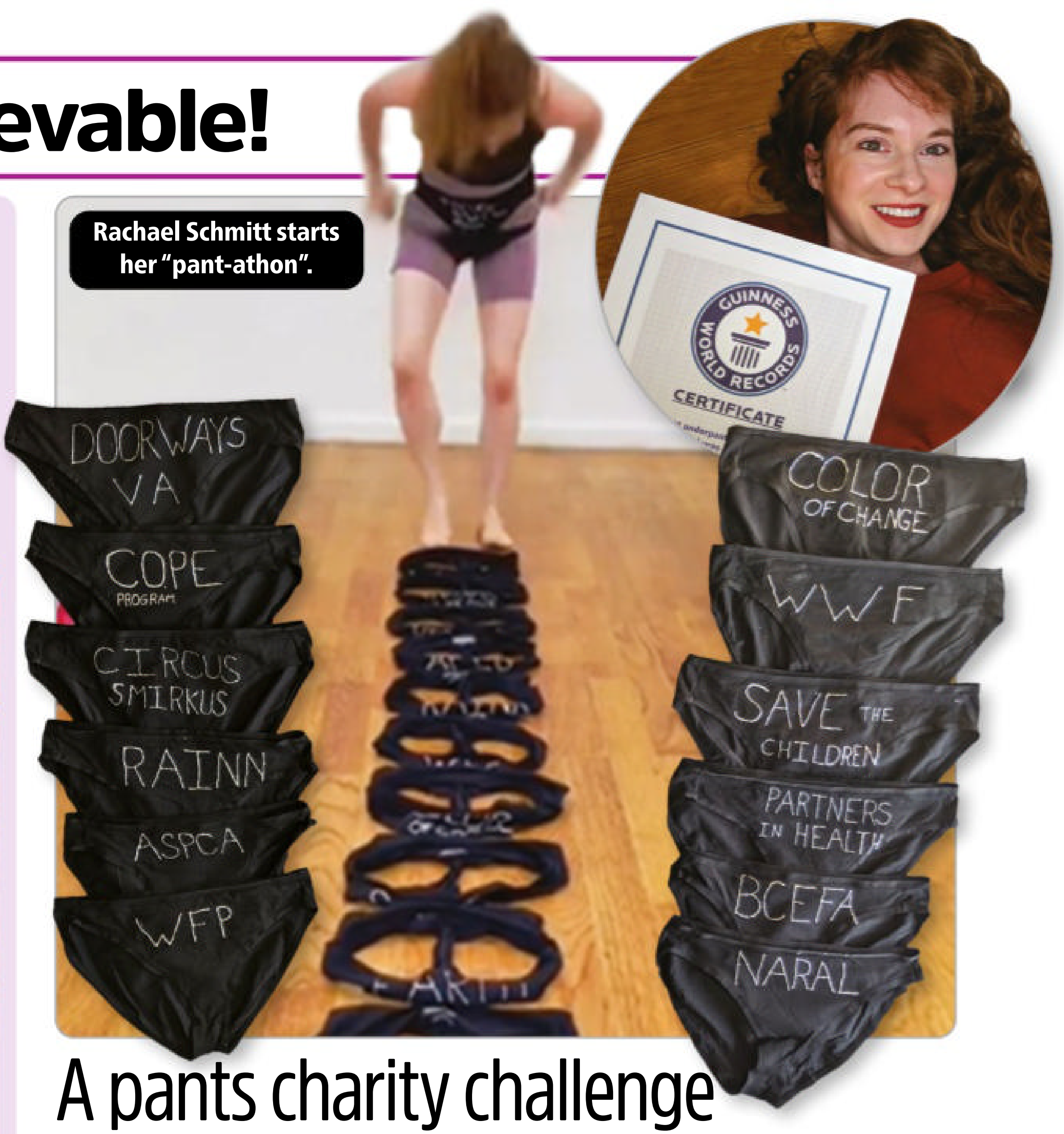
REX SHUTTERSTOCK

That's unbelievable!

Cool castles are an ice day out

If you've ever complained your house is too cold, imagine how chilly it is in a giant ice castle. Located across the US, five incredible ice castles are being built by teams of artists who carefully piece together thousands of chunks of ice, a process that takes around 10,000 hours of work to complete. The castles open in January for visitors to explore their icy tunnels and chambers, and to take selfies on special ice thrones before sliding away on giant ice slides. That's one cool day out.

Sliding down a giant ice slide.



Rachael Schmitt starts her "pant-athon".

A pants charity challenge

Many people wear extra tops during the cold winter months, but Rachael Schmitt, who lives in Dublin, Ireland, has been putting on extra pants. In fact, she managed to put on 19 pairs of pants in just 30 seconds, smashing the Guinness World Record and raising money for good causes as she did it. Schmitt was inspired to take the challenge by her days spent working in the theatre, which often involved quick costume changes. "This record is a great combination of speed and strategy," she said.

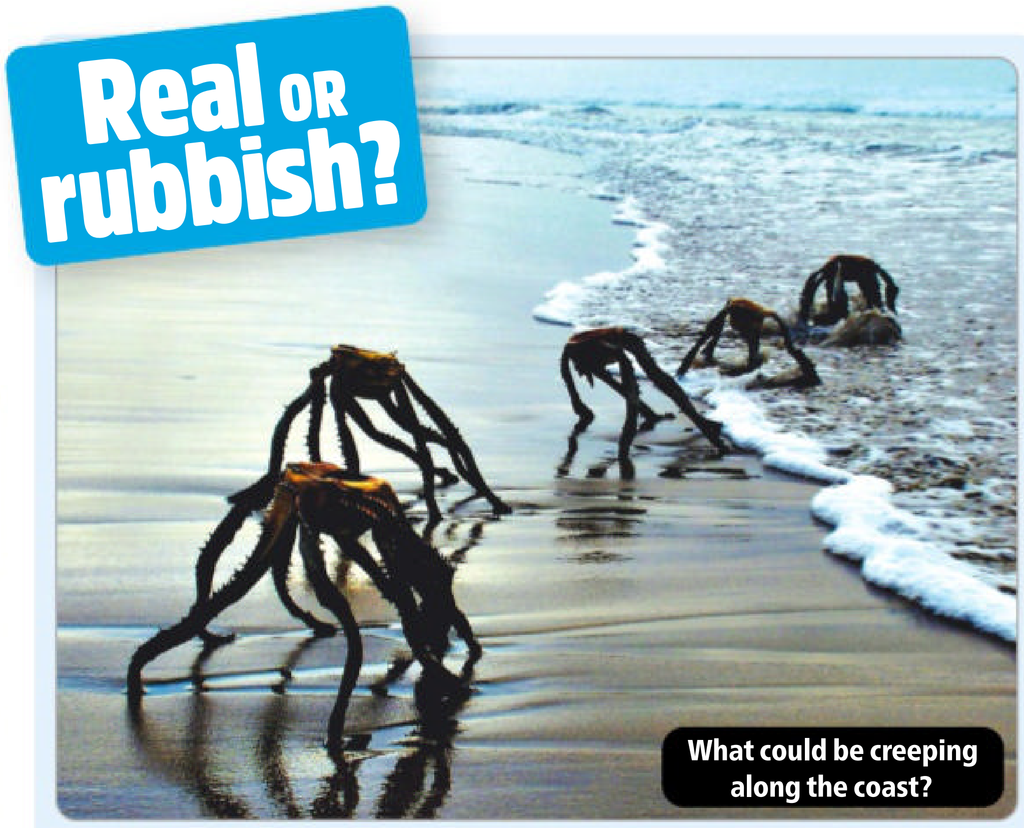
Two cheeky emus come "home"

A pair of emus that were "banned" from a hotel in the town of Yaraka, Australia, have returned. The cheeky emus, called Kevin and Carol, had been straying into the hotel, snatching toast from guests, drinking tourists' tea and making a mess with their poo. After disappearing for nearly three years, the pair have been spotted again – with emu chicks. The birds now spend most of the time with their chicks, but local resident Leanne Byrne says Carol sometimes stops by for a cuddle.

YARAKA HOTEL

Some guests were not "emu-sed" by the birds' behaviour.

Real or rubbish?



What could be creeping along the coast?

Sea spiders spotted on shore

A man in Still Bay, South Africa, sparked panic after he took photos of some creepy-looking creatures emerging from the sea near his home. Jan Vorster posted photos of what look like large sea spiders at sunset on his social media pages. The photos were shared around South Africa, leaving locals too scared to swim in the sea or spend time at the coast. "Because of things like this, I don't swim. I'm already scared of a shark," one person posted in response. So what do you think? Are the sea spiders real, or are we spinning a web of lies?*

*Real and rubbish! Jan did take the photo, but it is of dead aloe vera plants, not spiders or aliens. Many people panicked and they had to be reassured by Jan, and by a scientist, that these were plants and totally harmless to humans.

A.J. MELLOR · MARY SIVERSTEN · RACHAEL SCHMITT/GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS · KENNEDY NEWS & MEDIA · CHRIS GIMBLETT · GETTY IMAGES · REX SHUTTERSTOCK

Over to you

Editor's note

Hello and welcome to your first issue of 2023. I hope it gives you a good excuse to sit (or lie) somewhere comfortable while you enjoy discovering what's happened around the world over the past couple of weeks. For even more of a treat, you might want to whip up a mug of delicious hot chocolate to drink as you read – see page 25 for our recipe.

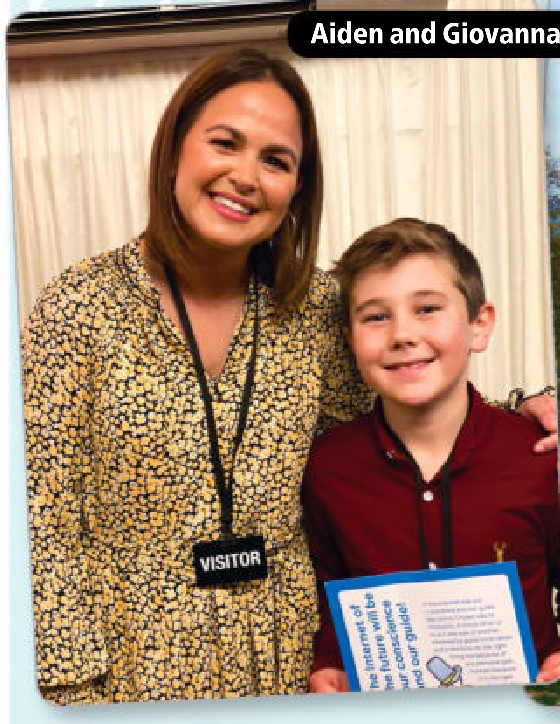
If you're new to *The Week Junior*, please know we're thrilled to have you join us and we look forward to sharing fascinating and inspiring news, features and activities with you. If you'd like to find out more about some of the stories and get to know the people that make this magazine, have a listen to our podcast – *The Week Junior Show*. We release a new episode every Friday and we'd love you to get involved too. For a chance to hear your voice on the show just head to tinyurl.com/TWJ-show then scroll down until you see a big red button and instructions for recording your message (make sure you have a parent or guardian's permission before you do this). I'm looking forward to hearing what you have to say!

Anna Bassi
Editorial director

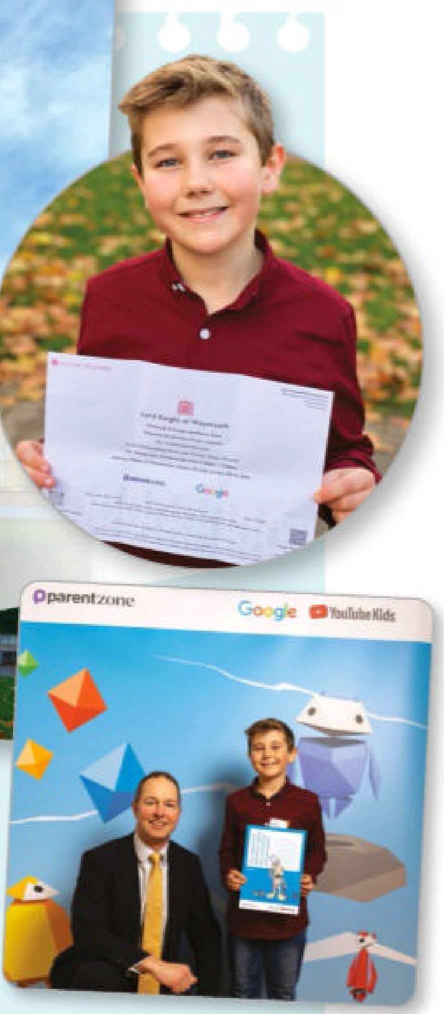
CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Age UK

Age UK helps everyone make the most of their later life. It does this by speaking up for older people's rights and giving them support when they need it. This can involve campaigning for improvements in the way the Government helps older people, and giving people advice on things like exercise and being cared for at home. Age UK also organises clubs and classes where people can go to learn computer skills, try arts and crafts, play games together and meet new people. You can find out more about what Age UK does at ageuk.org.uk



Aiden and Giovanna.



Afternoon tea at the Houses of Parliament

Name: **Aiden**

“I entered a competition which asked, ‘What do you want the internet of the future to be like?’ My winning entry meant that I could go and see my work on display and have afternoon tea at the Houses of Parliament, which was a real treat! Meeting the Queen of the Jungle, Giovanna Fletcher, was the icing on the cake, though.

I want the internet to be our conscience and guide, like Jiminy Cricket was to Pinocchio. Then it would drive us to act one way or another, informed by good moral values and a desire to do the right thing – not because of personal gain, but because it is the right thing to do.”

What have you been up to lately? Which books have you enjoyed reading? What have you made? Have you written a poem or drawn a picture that you'd like to see published on this page? Whatever you have to show or tell us, get in touch at *hello@theweekjunior.co.uk*

POPCORN
TICKET

JOKE OF THE WEEK

“Why did the cow cross the road?
To get to the moovies.”
PopJam user

GET INVOLVED

Plant your Pants

The Country Trust is asking school pupils up and down the country to “Plant Your Pants”. The charity, which helps disadvantaged young people connect with nature, says that burying cotton underwear reveals the health of the soil because healthy soil breaks down cotton. Soil is vital for growing crops and storing carbon, but some scientists believe UK soil only has enough nutrients to last another 200 harvests. If you want to find out how healthy the soil is in your school or garden, download the Plant Your Pants Pack at countrytrust.org.uk/plantyourpants

Testing the soil.

Plant Your Pants!
Country Trust

THE WEEK Junior
Roving Reporter

GET INVOLVED

Email your news, views and pictures to *hello@theweekjunior.co.uk*

Over to you

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see your snaps. Send them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.co.uk* Don't forget to tell us why you took them.

Qutab Minar is in India's capital city.

"This is the Qutab Minar in New Delhi. It is the tallest brick minaret in the world, at nearly 73 metres tall. I had to lie down on my back to take this photograph!" Dhaani

"My school stayed open in the snow so we all built an igloo." Ishaan and Zane

"I knitted a patchwork blanket for a local Ukrainian family. I've also been using sea glass to upcycle things. I raised £445.50 for Shelter and Mary's Meals." Michael

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's name: **Mrs Tingle**

School: **Nine Acres Primary School, Newport, Isle of Wight**

"I am nominating my teacher Mrs Tingle because she is a great English leader and a very supportive teacher. If you're worried about something she will always know and help you. This week has been a very different week yet Mrs Tingle still helped us because she is the best teacher in the world and she makes me feel safe and happy at school."

Archie

If we pick your teacher as Teacher of the Week, we'll send your school three free issues of *The Week Junior*. Send your nominations, along with a picture of your teacher and your school's full name and address, to *hello@theweekjunior.co.uk*

AGEUK.ORG.UK · GETTY IMAGES · THE COUNTRY TRUST

Puzzles page and quiz answers

1 a) Kiribati **2** False, they rescued a sheep by making sheep noises **3** Three **4** b) Four hours **5** True **6** 57% **7** a) Vladimir Lenin **8** True **9** 365 **10** a) Chelsea **11** True **12** Link **13** False, it was given as a cure for being unable to poo **14** c) 400 million **15** 19

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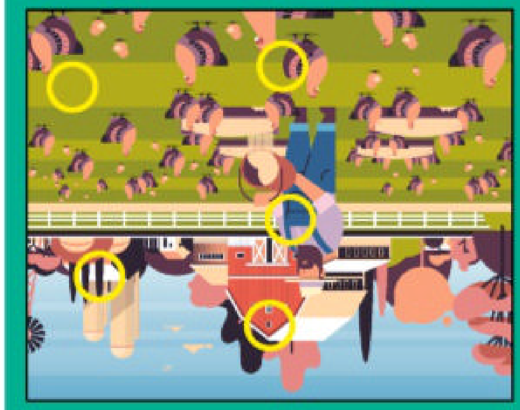
Word jumble: Hurdle, track, discus, sprint



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POPJAM

Follow *The Week Junior* on PopJam @TheWeekJunior. You can download the PopJam app from the App Store or Google Play.

In our last issue, we asked you if you should stay up on New Year's Eve…

"Yes, it only happens once a year and I don't want to miss out!"

"Even though you will be tired it is worth it to see all of the fireworks."

"Obviously! It's New Year's Eve!"

"You have just had Christmas and might have stayed up late so it's too much. Just go to bed so you're fresh for the new year and not exhausted."

Tell us what you think of this week's issue and we'll print some of the best comments here.

THE WEEK Junior SHOW

A new episode of our podcast is released every Friday. Listen at tinyurl.com/TWJ-show or scan the QR code. This week, Vanessa, Eve and Bex reveal who was on the New Year Honours list.

Please include your full name and address so that we can send you a Roving Reporter badge if your contribution makes it onto the page. We will only use the details you provide to arrange delivery of badges, and we will not share them with anyone else. By submitting your reports and pictures, you give consent to *The Week Junior* to print them in the magazine and digital editions. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, accuracy and suitability. Ensure you have your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

Quiz of the week

1 Which was the first country to celebrate New Year 2023?

☐ a) Kiribati

☐ b) Australia

☐ c) India

2 True or false? In Wales, workers for the RSPCA, an animal charity, rescued a cow by mooing.

☐ True ☐ False

3 How many FIFA World Cups did Brazilian footballer Pelé win?

4 How long do people between seven and 16 years of age spend online each day, according to a 2021 study?

☐ a) Five hours

☐ b) Four hours

☐ c) 30 minutes

5 True or false? Jaylen Smith, aged 18, is the youngest black mayor in the US.

☐ True ☐ False

6 How much of the Earth was covered with forest 10,000 years ago?

7 Who was the first leader of the Soviet Union?

☐ a) Vladimir Lenin

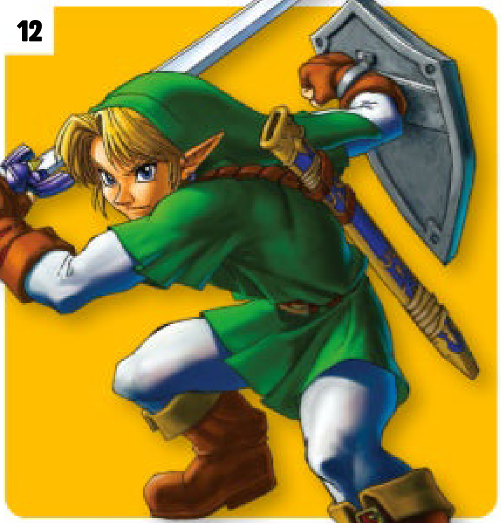
☐ b) Joseph Stalin

☐ c) Tsar Nicholas II

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29

1

12



2

8

14

8 True or false? The Sun is about halfway through its life.

☐ True ☐ False

9 How many marathons did Gary McKee run in 2022?

10 Lauren James plays for which football club?

☐ a) Chelsea

☐ b) Arsenal

☐ c) Manchester United

11 True or false? Nintendo character Super Mario has featured in more than 200 video games.

☐ True ☐ False

12 What is the hero in the Legend of Zelda games called?

13 True or false? Hot chocolate was given to people as a cure for colds in the 19th century.

☐ True ☐ False

14 How many people listen to podcasts worldwide?

☐ a) 400,000

☐ b) Four million

☐ c) 400 million

15 How many pairs of pants did Rachel Schmitt put on in 30 seconds, breaking the Guinness World Record?

THE WEEK Junior

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